

The Gambia

1956 and 1957

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THE GAMBIA

Report for the years 1956 and 1957

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THE GAMBIA

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PART I

General Review of 1956 and 1957

THE ROYAL VISIT

AN outstanding event of the period under review was a three-day visit to the territory at the end of January, 1957, by His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, on the last stage of his historic world tour aboard the Royal Yacht *Britannia*.

On arrival at Bathurst Prince Philip received a great ovation from the people during an official ceremony of welcome at MacCarthy Square and when driving through the decorated streets of the town.

After a full day of engagements His Royal Highness, accompanied by the Governor, Sir Percy Wyn-Harris, K.C.M.G., M.B.E., and official guests, boarded the *Britannia* and sailed up the River Gambia for some eighty miles to Sankwia, where he formally opened the Fourteenth Annual Conference of Protectorate Chiefs. Subsequently he visited villages and inspected various agricultural activities including tractor ploughing of rice swamps and the harvesting of rice.

The visit to the Protectorate was concluded by His Royal Highness receiving the Chiefs aboard the Royal Yacht at Sankwia. On the evening of the third day the Royal Party departed from Sankwia for Gibraltar.

THE ECONOMY

The Gambia has few natural resources and in consequence its financial position is often not happy. Groundnuts (peanuts) being its main export commodity, it is inevitable that the size of the crop and the price at which it is sold are major factors in the country's economy.

The groundnut buying season, or "Trade" season as it is known locally, commences in November and ends before April in the following year.

The "Trade" season of 1955—56 was unique in that for the first time since the second World War no attempt was made to match the price paid to farmers for groundnuts with that of adjacent French Senegal and Casamance. It was considered to be more realistic to relate the price to the expected world market price.

The previous season's price of £32 per ton to the farmer had involved the Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Board in paying a subsidy from the Stabilization Fund of £640,000, owing to the world price falling very much lower than had been anticipated. The Fund could

not possibly carry another loss of that magnitude and there had, therefore, to be great caution in deciding what could be afforded to be paid for the groundnuts. The price was accordingly fixed at £25 10. 0*d.*, for the 1955-56 "Trade" season, though there was misgiving as to whether this was an attractive enough price. In the event, fears that this price, a figure considerably below that in the surrounding French territory, would cause Gambian nuts to flow across the frontiers into the hands of French traders were not realised.

The blow to the Gambian farmer represented by such a big decrease in the price paid for his groundnuts was only slightly softened by the fact that the crop reached the reasonably good total of 56,561 tons.

The Government had framed the 1956 estimates on the basis that there was a duty to help the local economy by pressing on with as large a programme as possible of public works. There had been therefore the deliberate acceptance of a heavy deficit which might be as high as £330,000 on the year's financial working. Fortunately, actual receipts during the year were better than had been anticipated and some expenditure items showed large savings, with the outcome that the final result was a deficit of only about £240,000 even after meeting heavy supplementary demands which included a loan of £105,000 to the Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Board and £45,000 to meet the charges arising from the acceptance of the Gorsuch Salaries Commission recommendations.

The groundnut buying price for the 1956—57 "Trade" season was fixed at £31 a ton, the increased world price that made it possible being due to the partial failure of the Nigerian crop and trouble in the Middle East. In addition it was found feasible to re-impose the export tax of £2 per ton on groundnuts, which had been remitted for the previous season. The final crop figure was 77,396 tons, a most successful seasonal total.

The need to re-examine and re-align fiscal policy to avoid running the country's reserves down to a dangerously low level, and to enlarge the economy of the country so that it could carry the ever-growing demands of the social services, particularly health, education and communications, was stressed in the Governor's speech when opening the Budget Session of the Legislative Council, in December, 1956. One of the first steps was that there would be a segregation of revenue and permanently recurrent expenditure from extraordinary or development expenditure. It was also said that the aim was to relate future expenditure policy to the probable revenue from all sources so that the frequent need for emergency measures either to increase revenue or decrease expenditure would, as far as possible, be obviated.

When the estimates for 1958 were presented, there were virtually two budgets, the Recurrent Estimates and the Development Estimates. This division had the advantage of showing clearly how pub-

lic money was being spent between the regular services and development and what was the size of the inescapable burden which will have to be enlarged each succeeding year as the people very naturally and reasonably ask for more and better amenities. It was, in fact, pointed out when the Budget was being presented that even to maintain the existing services with their annually increasing cost would absorb most of the normal revenue, and a warning was given that the Gambia must no longer rely on previous surpluses to finance anything but strictly non-recurrent expenditure, and that new amenities and services would almost certainly mean extra taxation.

To find more money from present taxation sources is patently not easy, and in the realization that Government income is directly related to production, efforts have been directed in recent years to expanding agriculture, the one major industry and the one alone that holds out any considerable promise. This is, however, a long-term development and during the next few years the provision of essential services is likely to be a most difficult problem.

As it is accepted that the main hope of the economy must lie in steadily developing balanced agriculture, the Agricultural Department and agricultural research will be strengthened. For it is clear that there is not only the need to develop further the main export crop of groundnuts, but also to seek alternative export crops, to increase the production of food crops, particularly rice, and to press on with improvements in other directions.

Great strides have already been made in increasing rice production not only by enlarging the acreage, but also by improving the yield per acre. It can be reasonably claimed that the annual "Hungry Season" (a hiatus between planting and harvesting when, traditionally the peasant farmers had to expend the maximum physical energy on their crops while at the same time trying to eke out the remainder of their food stocks) has been conquered. Future objectives are to eliminate entirely the need to import rice and possibly to build up a small export trade in this commodity.

Generally there is the aim to find means whereby the peasant farmers, who form the bulk of the population and the foundation of the country's economy, can be assisted to escape from a vicious circle which confines them economically to a near subsistence level of life.

Efforts to improve livestock and to develop cattle marketing both inside or outside the territory have not so far produced noticeable results, but the work proceeds.

There is now a small mining industry in the Gambia, the export of ilmenite, which, although it is unlikely to have a great effect on the economy of the country as a whole, has made a useful contribution to the economy of Bathurst and the Kombos. The deposits of ilmenite have not proved as large as was first hoped and the life of the industry is bound to be of limited duration unless further

deposits are found. Other developments, such as the improvement of the airfield at Yundum and the opening of a modern hotel at Bathurst have assisted the economy, but a recent decision of certain airlines to use aircraft of greater range and to cease night-stops at Bathurst is going to mean a reduction in local income and employment.

The near-completion of the Trans-Gambia Road, connecting Dakar in the Senegal to Ziquinchor in the Casamance, and the provision of new Gambian-operated ferries across the River Gambia will give the French a much-needed improvement in their communications, and will also provide some small additional revenue for the Gambia.

The Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Board continued to play a vital part in the country's economy. Through it the territory's exportable crops, mainly groundnuts, are collected, shipped and sold, and in turn seednuts and insecticides, etc., are distributed.

In March, 1957, the Government decided that the time had come to review the Board's activities in order to make improvements which might be considered desirable for the benefit of the Gambia in general and especially of the farming community. Following this an adviser with knowledge of similar marketing boards in other territories was appointed to review the membership, functions, organisation and operation of the Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Board and to report thereon to Government with recommendations. The Adviser arrived later in the year and has submitted his report which the Government still has under consideration.

AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HEALTH AND FISHERIES

While groundnuts continue to be the main cash crop of the Gambia, progress has been made in food production. In particular, the increase in the production of rice has been encouraging. Having enlarged the area under cultivation by the construction of access causeways into the more fertile swamplands nearer the river, by the bridging of creeks and by contract mechanical ploughing of rice lands, steps have now been taken to increase the productive capacity of these rice lands. A rice expert from India has done very valuable work in the Central and MacCarthy Island Divisions; village rice plots have been used to demonstrate improved techniques and considerable propaganda by word of mouth and film will, it is believed, have the effect of raising the status of rice cultivation from being a woman's crop to a family endeavour.

The former Colonial Development Corporation rice farm in the MacCarthy Island Division in the middle river district of the Protectorate, which was taken over by the Gambia Government, has increased both its acreage and yield, and in addition to conducting experiments in varieties of rice and the chemical control of weeds, etc., it has made encouraging progress in the cultivation of rice in partnership with neighbouring villages.

Research into soil and crop problems has been continued at the Agricultural Experimental Station at Yundum and during the period under review has been extended to four stations and substations of the Agricultural Department in the Protectorate. Research into the use of fertilisers on upland soils has given results which it is confidently believed will lead to economic returns in many areas of the territory. The soil nutrient status is gradually becoming clearer with discoveries of deficiencies of both major and trace elements, whilst the treatment of groundnut seed with a fungicidal seed dressing has given high and economical yield differences. Following investigations into the control of insects infesting stored groundnuts, recommendations have been made and implemented with encouraging results for the treatment, at specified rates, using an approved insecticidal dust on heaps of stored nuts in Seccos, on bagged seednuts and on bags used for storing and conveying groundnuts.

The Department of Agriculture has continued the manufacture and distribution of compost in the urban areas of the Colony, whilst in the Protectorate the opening of seven village ox-ploughing and training "schools" has stimulated the use of ox-drawn equipment to supplement the traditional method of hand cultivation of upland farms as well as attempting to inculcate the value of mixed husbandry in those districts with a large cattle population.

The campaign against animal pests has continued and during the last six years over 180,000 baboons, 50,000 wild pigs and 95,000 destructive monkeys have been accounted for.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The work of establishing co-operative societies, which began some years ago in a small way under the supervision of the Commissioner for the Colony with the aid of two African inspectors in Bathurst and its environs, has now been extended into other areas, following the appointment of a full-time Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

EDUCATION

In 1956 agreement was reached between Government and the Methodist Mission for the establishment of a new non-denominational co-educational High School in Bathurst, as recommended in the Baldwin Report of 1951. A Board of Governors, which includes Mohammedan and Anglican members, was appointed in 1957. The Roman Catholic Mission has found itself unable to participate in this important project. It is intended that this High School will begin work in January, 1959.

Work continues on the Crab Island Modern Secondary School, which will accommodate from January, 1958, approximately 500 children from the top classes of the elementary schools.

Notwithstanding that a large new infant school, built with the aid of a grant under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, was opened in Bathurst at the beginning of 1957, it was still necessary to

continue double sessions. This situation reflects the increase of interest in and demand for education which have both developed rapidly in Bathurst during the past few years.

The Government continued to send a small number of experienced primary teachers to England for further training and, in 1956, four young women entered training colleges there to pursue the Ministry of Education two-year course. A fifth has embarked on a three-year course, while four men at universities in the United Kingdom will take Teaching Diplomas after graduation.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

The Public Works Department, which maintains and operates all the public utilities except electricity, telecommunications and marine services, undertook a considerable expansion of work in the Protectorate during 1956 and 1957 and at the end of 1957 capital works were being carried out in each Division. These were mainly quarters for senior and junior staffs but also included roads, wharves and water supplies.

Major projects in progress during this period were the reconstruction of Bathurst streets, a new water supply for Bathurst and the Trans-Gambian road in the Central Division of the Protectorate.

The Department aims at establishing high standards in its own work and encouraging the expansion of local contractors, both large and small. As a result of this and the strict application of the Building Regulations an increasing amount of good quality private building is evident in Bathurst.

During 1958 work on the new Bathurst water supply will continue and a start be made on building a new 650-ft. long concrete bridge over Oyster Creek to carry the road link from Bathurst to the Kombo area of the Colony and to the Protectorate in replacement of a steel bridge which is now inadequate and over-age.

OTHER EVENTS

A tragic event occured on the evening of May 9th, 1957, when a Government ferry crossing the 3-mile wide estuary of the River Gambia, from Barra to Bathurst, capsized in rough weather. Fifty-two persons are thought to have perished but owing to the swift currents of the river mouth only eight bodies were recovered. Compensation has been paid to the dependents of those who lost their lives.

The 4th Session of the West African Inter-Territorial Council was held in Bathurst on the 6th and 7th January, 1956.

The Rt. Hon. John Hare, then Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, visited the territory from the 15th to the 22nd March, 1956.

A Commonwealth Parliamentary Delegation visited the territory from the 22nd to the 26th March, 1956.

The Gambia was visited by the frigate H.M.S. *Mounts Bay* in February, 1957, and by the frigate H.M.S. *Bigbury Bay* in December, 1957.

A list of Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes initiated or in progress in 1956 and 1957 is given at Appendix IV.

The Gambia Government is represented in London by the Sierra Leone and Gambia Commissioner whose offices are situated at 120, Pall Mall, S.W.1.

PART II

Chapter 1 : Population

EXCEPT for the year 1941, when the census was deferred until 1944, a census has been held in Bathurst every 10 years since 1901. The last census, held in November, 1951, included for the first time the Kombo St. Mary Division. The population of Bathurst was found to be 19,602, compared with 21,152 in 1944, a decrease of 1,550 which was attributed to the dispersal of numbers of strangers attracted to Bathurst by the work available during the war.

Figures for previous censuses were:

Year	*No.*
1901 . . .	8,807
1911 . . .	7,700
1921 . . .	9,227
1931 . . .	14,370

The population of Kombo St. Mary at the 1951 census was 7,695 compared with 8,131 in 1946, the latter figure having been derived from a rough count of occupied premises made for rating purposes. Almost half the population of Bathurst and Kombo St. Mary are Wollofs. Akus, Mandingos, Fulas, Jolas and Sereres make up the remainder of the African population in roughly equal proportions. The census recorded a total of 544 non-Africans in the Colony, including 222 British, 47 French, 201 Syrians and Lebanese and 74 others.

The total population of the Protectorate was estimated, as a result of the annual counts, as 246,700 in 1956 and 237,000 in 1957. The figures upon which these totals are based have been collected by the District and Group Treasury Scribes and though they are based upon the annual rates assessments, they are not very accurate, particularly in such matters as division into tribes and between faiths, and in the number of women and children. In addition the 1957 figures were obtained later in the year than usual, at a period when many residents had, as of custom, temporarily left the Gambia. This is believed to be the reason for an apparent fall of some 4 per cent in the Protectorate population figures. The figures given do not include the 9,218 "Strange Farmers" who came in 1956 and the 9,656 who came in 1957 (an account of these is given in Chapter 6). Immigrant settlers are, however, included in the figures.

On the basis of the returns, the population is distributed approximately as follows among the main tribal divisions:

	1956	1957
Mandingo	103,300	100,800
Fula (all tribal sub-division) .	57,700	53,900
Wollof	36,200	32,400
Serahuli	20,100	18,600
Jola	21,200	20,900
Others	8,200	10,400
	246,700	237,000

The "Others" include representatives from various tribal groups concentrated over the border, who live individually or in small communities among the main tribes in the Gambia. Among these, from the 1957 figures, may be noted just over 100 Mauretanian Arabs and half Arabs mainly engaged in cattle trade and petty trade the Manjagos (2,000), Sereres (3,100) and Bambarras (3,000).

The Mandingos are spread fairly evenly throughout the length of the territory on both banks, being especially concentrated in the Central Division (41,800). The Fulas preponderate in the Mac-Carthy Island Division (21,100) and Upper River Division (15,100), The greatest concentration of Wollof is in the Saloum Districts of the Central Division: 14,600 of them live in an almost homogeneous block which corresponds to a large group of this tribe over the border in the Senegal; the balance is spread up and down the territory on both banks, chiefly on the millet-growing lands near the border, except in the Upper River Division (300). The Jolas, who are believed to have moved within the last century into a great part of the land they now occupy and which was until then partly thick forest, are nearly full in the Western Division (20,200) and mostly to be found in Foni Districts to the South of the Bintang Creek. Most of the Serahulis live in the Upper River Division (16,600). Vital statistics are given in Part II, Chapter 7, p. 42.

Chapter 2 : Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

EMPLOYMENT

PEASANT farmers form 90 per cent of the population. Groundnuts, their main cash crop, are planted with the first rains in June, harvested with the last rains in October and are ready for marketing in December. Traditionally groundnuts have been a man's crop, women concentrating on growing rice and vegetables. The expansion of rice growing, particularly in the middle river swamps, has, however made this commodity an important secondary cash crop in those areas and an increasing number of men are engaged in its cultivation.

Migrant workers, known as "strange farmers," enter the country each year from the Senegal and Portuguese Guinea to grow groundnuts on land made available to them by Gambian farmers: 9,218 migrants entered the Gambia in 1956 and 9,656 in 1957. In the off-farming season young men from the country districts come into Bathurst and the river ports in search of employment, e.g. loading groundnuts. They return to their homes before the beginning of the rains to resume farming.

In the Western Division, Gambia Minerals Limited are mining and exporting ilmenite. This is the first substantial industrial undertaking to be established in the Gambia. Two decorticating plants near Bathurst operate during the trade season and do some oil expressing at other times. The Oilseeds Marketing Board operates two decorticating plants in the Protectorate.

Most wage earners are employed in Bathurst. The Government is the chief employer, directly employing approximately 2,700 persons during each of the years 1956 and 1957. Commercial undertakings employ about 2,500 persons.

The following table summarises the trades of persons employed in Bathurst.

	1956		1957	
	Men	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*
Labourers	1,920	—	2,258	—
Masons	122	—	147	—
Motor Drivers	283	—	373	—
Carpenters and Joiners	217	—	232	—
Fitters and Mechanics	200	—	218	—
Blacksmiths	39	—	63	—
Electricians	59	—	70	—
Traders and Shopkeepers	289	—	256	—
Clerks	689	50	668	55
Others	1,999	132	1,486	160

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

The statutory minimum wage of unskilled labourers is 3*s.* 4*d.* for an eight-hour working day with a minimum of 3*s.* 9*d.* for casual labourers, and 6*d.* an hour overtime. Casual labourers employed in loading groundnuts are paid at the rate of 2*d.* a bag. At this rate labourers can earn from ten to fifteen shillings a day during trade season.

Sailors and lightermen engaged on the river in commercial craft are paid a statutory minimum wage of £3 a month and are provided with rations in addition.

Rates of Wages 1956–1957

	Daily		*Monthly**	
	s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Labourers	3 4	to 5 3	4 6 8	to 8 0 0
Skilled Artisans	6 6	– 10 0	5 0 0	– 40 0 0
Clerks	5 0	– 10 0	7 0 0	– 48 0 0
Motor Drivers	5 0	– 7 6	6 0 0	– 40 0 0
Cooks		—	5 10 0	– 15 0 0
Stewards		—	5 0 0	– 8 0 0
Painters	6 6	– 10 0	6 0 0	– 10 0 0
Telephone Operators	4 0	– 5 0	10 0 0	– 40 0 0

* The maximum monthly wages shown are for technicians in supervisory grades.

Non-Government daily paid employees are paid time and a quarter for hours worked in excess of 8 hours provided they have completed 44 hours during the week. Time and a-half is paid for overtime work done on Sundays and on Public Holidays.

The average working week in commercial firms is 44 hours. In Government departments clerical staff work 36½ hours per week and manual workers 43 hours.

There are eight paid holidays in the year. Regular daily paid employees in Government service are paid for such holidays, but not for Sundays.

COST OF LIVING

The cost of living index is based on the estimated needs of a married worker, with one child, earning £6 per month. The index is calculated from the basis of 100 in March, 1950. The index stood at 108 during the first quarter of 1956 and rose to 119.7 at the end of September, 1957. The variation over the two years for the five main items is shown below.

	1956				1957			
	March	*June*	*Sept.*	*Dec.*	*March*	*June*	*Sept.*	*Dec.*
i. Food . .	108	107	112.7	112.0	117	113.4	118	101.4
ii. Clothing .	100.0	99.5	100.6	100.1	97	99.9	100.5	100.5
iii. Fuel and Light .	100.6	99.3	100.6	100.7	100.7	100.7	100.7	101.2
iv. Rent . .	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
v. Miscellaneous .	99.5	99.4	100.1	100.0	100.3	100.1	100.5	101.1
All items .	108	106.5	114.2	112.9	117.7	114.1	119.7	104.2

Mid-year and end-year retail prices of principal foodstuffs were as follows:

	Measure	*Average Price 1950*	*Average Price 1956*		*Average Price 1957*	
			June	*Dec.*	*June*	*Dec.*
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Rice . .	1 lb.	7	6	6	6	5½
Coos . .	1 lb.	2¾	4	5	5	2
Fish . .	1 lb.	3	3	3	3	3
Meat . .	1 lb.	1 1	1 6	1 6	1 6	1 6
Groundnut Oil .	1 gallon	12 6	12 6	12 6	13 6	13 6
Palmoil . .	1 gallon	6 3	9 0	9 0	9 0	10 6
Sugar . .	1 lb.	7½	7	8	10	8
Cassava . .	1 lb.	2	3	2	3	3
Groundnuts .	4 ozs.	1	1	1	1	1
Bread . .	3 ozs.	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
Greenleaves .	Each	3	1	1	1	1

LABOUR OFFICE

Labour questions are dealt with by a Labour Officer assisted by a small staff located in Bathurst. A Labour Advisory Board respon-

sible for reviewing conditions of labour in the Colony and the Protectorate advises the Government on all labour matters, including the fixing of wages. A labour employment exchange was opened in Bathurst in 1952; the total number of unemployed placed in employment through the exchange was 447 in 1956 and 151 in 1957.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

There are three registered trade unions: the Gambia Labour Union, the Bathurst Trade Union, and the Gambia River Trade and Commercial Workers' Union. None has a membership of more than a few hundred. The Gambia Labour Union, which is affiliated to the International Federation of Free Trade Unions, and the River Trade and Commercial Workers' Union, have set up a Central Council through which to settle matters of common interest. The following associations also exist, though they are not registered as trade unions.

	Membership
The Teachers' Union . . .	190
The Senior Civil Service Association	90

Whitley Councils provide machinery for negotiations between the Government and the senior civil service, the clerical staff, the technical staff and the teachers.

Labour relations remained generally satisfactory. There were two strikes in 1957 resulting in work being suspended for 52 hours.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Ordinance was introduced in 1956 to elaborate and extend the original provision of the Ordinance.

The following labour legislation is in force:

Minimum Wage Order, No. 23 of 1952.
The Trade Union Ordinance, 1932.
The Forced Labour Ordinance, 1934.
The Wharves (Safety of Workers) Regulations, 1938.
The Labour Ordinance, 1944.
The Merchant Shipping (International Labour Conventions). Ordinance, 1940.
The Recruiting of Workers Ordinance, 1940.
The Workers' Compensation Ordinance, 1940.
The Factories Ordinance, 1941.
The Employment of Ex-Servicemen Ordinance, 1945.
The Labour (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950.
The Employment Exchange and Registration of Employment Ordinance, 1951.
The Native Labour (Foreign Service) Ordinance, 1913.
The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1956.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

There is no major industrial training scheme, but the Government operates a Technical School for masons and carpenters, capable of training up to 30 students at a time for a period of five years. In addition the Marine and Public Works Departments have separate apprenticeship schemes for training mechanics and marine workers, and during the period under review 22 and 12 trainees respectively were enrolled for a period of five years. The Government also runs a Clerical School capable of training annually approximately fifty students in shorthand, typing, arithmetic and English.

Chapter 3 : Public Finance and Taxation

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

APPENDICES I to III set out revenue and expenditure during the period 1956-1957. These figures have been adjusted to exclude repayments of revenue received, and net totals are shown, as well as the gross totals that appear in the published annual accounts.

PUBLIC DEBT

The Public Debt at 31st December, 1956, was £238,760, against which there was a Sinking Fund of £42,383. These items are shown at Note 1 in the statement of Assets and Liabilities overleaf.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

LIABILITIES	Amount £ s. d.	Total £ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. *DEPOSITS :*			
Post Office Savings Bank Accounts due Depositors	289,998 10 7		
Less Deficit in Savings Bank Reserve Account	40,291 3 3		
		249,707 7 4	
Miscellaneous		64,193 10 2	
Other Governments		13,866 5 5	
			327,767 2 11
2. *LOAN ACCOUNT ELECTRICITY (UNSPENT BALANCE)*			10,780 17 3
3. *JOINT CONSOLIDATED FUND*			122,000 0 0
4. *SPECIAL FUNDS :*			
Divisional Hungry Season Relief Fund		2,493 0 7	
District Authorities Reserve Fund		31,398 0 2	
Farmers' Development Fund		611,894 9 10	
Farmers' Stabilization Fund		453,539 2 9	
Provident Fund		188 15 3	
War Memorial Fund		2,000 0 0	
			1,101,513 8 7
5. *APPROPRIATED FUNDS :*			
Steamer and Marine Craft Depreciation Fund		41,855 6 9	
Telephone Equipment Depreciation Fund		4,123 17 11	
			45,979 4 8
6. *RESERVE FUND*			448,877 17 2
7. *GENERAL REVENUE BALANCE ACCOUNT :*			
Balance at 1st January, 1956.		603,750 4 10	
Deduct Net Deficit at 31st December, 1956	241,893 4 8		
Depreciation on Investments	17,737 2 10		
		259,630 7 6	
			344,119 17 4
			£2,401,038 7 11

NOTE :
1. The Public Debt amounted to £238,759/13/9 and the Sinking Fund £42,382/18/9.
2. Due from Colonial Development and Welfare Fund £48,488/10/8.
3. The Assets do not include the sum of £8,268 held in debentures in the West African Airways Corporation.
4. There is a contingent liability of £40,291/3/3 Post Office Savings Bank Deficit in Reserve Account.

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1956

ASSETS	Amount £ s. d.	Total £ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. *CASH :*			
At Local Bank		15,400 2 8	
In Treasury Chest		292 2 3	
Held by Sub-Accountants		8,870 7 9	
		24,562 12 8	
Less Crown Agents		767 15 1	
			23,794 17 7
2. DRAFTS AND REMITTANCES			2,155 15 10
3. *ADVANCES :*			
Farmers' Development Fund		81,679 8 4	
Farmers' Stabilization Fund		197,281 4 10	
Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Board		300,000 0 0	
Miscellaneous		72,418 9 9	
Other Governments		4,901 0 0	
Personal		11,730 13 9	
			668,010 16 8
4. *INVESTMENTS :*			
Special Funds :			
District Authorities Reserves	31,398 0 2		
Divisional Hungry Season Relief Fund	2,493 0 7		
Farmers' Development Fund	611,894 9 10		
Farmers' Stabilization Fund	453,539 2 9		
Post Office Savings Bank	220,177 13 2		
War Memorial Fund	1,773 0 6		
		1,321,275 7 0	
Appropriated Funds :			
Steamer and Marine Craft Depreciation Fund	36,249 12 5		
Telephone Equipment Depreciation Fund	3,953 18 2		
		40,203 10 7	
5. *GENERAL :*			
Reserve Fund	203,465 17 4		
Surplus Funds	142,132 2 11		
		345,598 0 3	
			1,707,076 17 10
			£2,401,038 7 11

MAIN HEADS OF TAXATION

Income Tax

Income Tax was introduced in 1940. The receipts for 1956 were £123,090 from companies and £17,135 from private persons, and for 1957, £94,092 and £33,865 respectively. There is a sliding scale of personal income tax, which amounted to the following rates on chargeable income in the years under review (income of single persons up to £200 a year and of married persons up to £350 a year were free of tax, and there were generous allowances for dependents):

Chargeable Income	*Average rate of tax in £*	
	1954	1955
£	s. d.	s. d.
400	9	6
600	1 2	8
1,000	2 1	1 1
2,000	3 6½	2 9½
5,000	7 5	6 9¾
10,000	10 0	8 5

The Company rate was reduced from 10*s.* 3*d.* to 9*s.* in the £ from the 1st January, 1955.

Customs Duties

The bigger yield from customs duties (see Appendix I) was due to the increased volume and value of trade.

The average rate of duty for all goods was equivalent, in *ad valorem* terms, to 26 per cent in 1956 and 28 per cent in 1957.

Rates of duty on tobacco, liquor and kola-nuts remained almost the same and realised £53,000, £46,000 and £45,000 respectively in 1956, and £124,000, £54,000 and £38,000 in 1957.

Except for grain, milk, building materials, sugar, refrigerators and a few other items, all goods are liable to import duties. There is a general *ad valorem* rate of 15 per cent preferential and 17½ per cent general which came into force from August, 1955, important exceptions being cotton piece goods, 22½ per cent and 25 per cent, and perfumed spirits 33 per cent, spirituous liquors, viz: whiskey and gin, £4 5*s.* 0*d.* preferential and £5 5*s.* 0*d.* general per gallon, others 35*s.* preferential and 35*s.* general per gallon; manufactured tobacco 6*s.* and 8*s.* per lb., unmanufactured tobacco 2*s.* 6*d.* per lb: kola-nuts 6*d.* and 9*d.* per lb; motor spirit 1*s.* 8*d.* per gallon.

There is also an export duty on groundnuts, decorticated and undecorticated, and on palm-kernels. The rates of duty on the first two items in 1956 being £7 5*s.* 7*d.* and £5 per ton respectively, and in 1957 £9 2*s.* 0*d.* and £6 5*s.* 0*d.* Groundnut cake and groundnut oil pay export duty of £6 10*s.* 0*d.* per ton.

An ordinance for the levying of harbour dues on all goods which are entered and cleared from the Port of Bathurst was enacted in 1948. The following is the latest revised scale of dues:

	Rate per ton of 20 cwt. s.	d.
Beeswax	6	8
Hides and skins	20	0
Groundnuts (decorticated and undecorticated)	5	0
Horns	16	0
Groundnut Oil	5	9
Palm-kernels	5	0
Shea butter	4	0
Other cargo per ton weight or measurement on which freight is charged	6	0
Ilmenite when loaded in the Island of St. Mary	1	0
Ilmenite when loaded elsewhere		6

LOCAL AUTHORITIES' FINANCES

In the Colony, the Bathurst Town Council levies rates of 1*s.* 6*d.* and 4*s.* in the £ on residential and commercial properties respectively. A special rate of 12*s.* in the £ is paid on all Government property in the Town Council's rating area.

The Kombo Rural Authority levies a rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* in the £ on properties at Cape St. Mary and Fajara and 10*d.* in the £ on those situated elsewhere.

The only direct tax charged by the Bathurst Town Council is on palm wine entering the town. No direct taxes are raised by the Kombo Rural Authority.

Property in the Protectorate is subject to a direct tax known as the District Rate, which accrues to the District Treasuries (see Part III, Chapter 3, Administration). The rates remained unchanged during the period under review and were:

for each	*s.*
yard of 4 huts	30
extra hut	5
lodger	5
strange farmer	10

The totals of revenue and expenditure of the Local Authorities in 1956 and 1957 were as follows:

		Revenue £	*Expenditure* £
Bathurst Town Council (including loans and grants)	1956:	41,158	40,658
	1957:	43,344	42,344
Kombo Rural Authority	1956:	3,664	2,574
	1957:	4,700	2,987
Protectorate Authorities	1955–56:	72,070	79,070
(Financial year ending 30th June)	1956–57:	82,220	79,000

Chapter 4 : Currency and Banking

CURRENCY in circulation at 31st December, 1956 was £4,952,528 and at 31st December, 1957, £5,013,778, of which £4,399,448 and £4,506,798 respectively was in notes of £5, £1 and 10*s.* denominations.

Circulation is always at its highest point in December and January, when large amounts are issued for the purchase of groundnuts. As a rule these issues of currency are quickly used for the purchase of goods and circulation falls in March and April, and remains low until the opening of the next trade season. Notes of the Banque d'Afrique Occidentale circulate freely in parts of the Protectorate, and British West African currency also circulates across the border in the Senegal and the Casamance.

The Bank of West Africa is the only bank operating in the Gambia; it has the one branch at Bathurst. The principal trading firms make their own arrangements for remitting funds for their businesses in the Protectorate. The Government river steamer service carries money as freight and small amounts are transmitted through the Post Office on board the steamer (money order remittances) and through District Treasuries and Post Offices at Basse, Georgetown, Kuntaur, Mansa, Konko and Brikama.

Savings Bank deposits amounted to some £289,999 at the end of 1956, and £291,031 at the end of 1957. Before the war, deposits amounted to less than £5,000. It is probable that amounts held in deposit in the Bank of West Africa have also risen considerably. The total amount held in the United Kingdom by the Gambia Government on its own account and on account of its depositors was £1,706,309 in 1956 and £2,406,918 in 1957, as compared with £284,000 in 1939.

Chapter 5 : Commerce

EXPORTS

ALMOST all commercial activity in the Gambia centres upon the marketing of groundnuts, which continues to be the only export crop of major financial significance. In 1956 and 1957, 38,107 and 49,291 tons of groundnuts, mainly decorticated, valued £2,252,732 and £3,721,780 respectively, were exported.

The other exports are beeswax, hides and skins and palm-kernels; their values in 1956 were £480, £2,247 and £83,034 respectively, and in 1957, £2,451, £3,918 and £70,399 respectively.

The following were the values and tonnage of groundnuts exported from 1947 to 1957 and the values of other exports, together with the average figures for earlier five year periods.

Period	*Value*		*Tonnage of Groundnuts*	
	Ground-nuts	*Other**	*Undecor-ticated*	*Decor-ticated*
	£	£		
1957 .	3,722,000	259,000	—	49,291
1956 .	2,253,000	115,000	13	38,094
1955 .	2,356,000	116,000	22,573	23,656
1954 .	2,679,000	233,000	34,531	12,729
1953 .	2,478,000	129,000	50,982	—
1952 .	3,562,000	133,000	60,683	—
1951 .	2,679,000	339,000	53,791	—
1950 .	2,107,000	63,000	58,791	—
1949 .	2,351,000	57,000	61,106	—
1948 .	2,108,000	54,000	66,430	2,504
1947 .	1,066,000	40,000	49,387	4,858
1940–1944	230,000	10,000	21,000	7,000
1935–1939	390,000	6,000	51,000	1,000

*Excluding re-exports valued at £184,966 in 1956 and £262,586 in 1957.

IMPORTS

Goods are imported by European, Gambian and Indian concerns. These maintain their own retailing organisations at suitable points in the Colony and Protectorate and also supply Gambian and Lebanese traders conducting their own retail businesses.

Total imports were valued at £3,730,000 in 1956 and £4,762,000 in 1957. The principal imports in 1956 and 1957 were as follows:

Articles	1956 *Quantity*	1956 *Value*	1957 *Quantity*	1957 *Value*
		£'000		£'000
Cotton piece goods ('000 sq. yd.)	5,193	412	9,558	702
Other Cotton Goods	—	19	—	59
Apparel	—	200	—	270
Artificial Silk ('000 sq. yd.)	1,640	143	4,003	309
Milk ('000 cwt.)	9	55	8	34
Rice ('000 cwt.)	131	285	222	486
Other Grain	—	—	—	—
Flour, Wheaten ('000 cwt.)	26	71	35	95
Sugar ('000 cwt.)	38	114	51	184
Kola-Nuts (centals of 100 lb.) ('000)	18	159	15	129
Unmanufactured Tobacco ('000 lb.)	136	23	343	65
Cigarettes ('000 lb.)	107	74	204	127
Aviation Spirits ('000 gall.)	150	18	211	17
Kerosene ('000 gall.)	177	27	159	21
Motor Spirit ('000 gall.)	677	38	872	50
Bags and Sacks, empty new ('000) No.	848	90	1,435	165
Bags and Sacks, empty old ('000) No.	19	2	2	1
Ale, Beer, Stout and Porter ('000 gall.)	82	37	83	39
Spirit ('000 gall.)	11	20	13	24
Soap, toilet, including shaving soap and cream (cwt.)	146	2	234	2
Soap, other kinds, common soap ('000 cwt.)	11	43	12	50
Candles (cwt.)	2,709	19	1,739	12
Hardware	—	234	—	218
Wines ('000 gall.)	22	9	26	14
Other Goods	—	1,636	—	1,689
Total Imports*		3,730		4,762
Re-Exports		185		263
Net Imports		3,545		4,499

*Excluding Bullion.

BALANCE OF TRADE

From 1943 onwards the Colony has had an adverse visible balance of trade, with the exception of 1954 when importers found themselves with heavy stocks from the previous year and therefore reduced their purchases from abroad. This adverse balance in 1956 and 1957 was largely covered by trade with Senegal and the Casamance, which has not been included under the terms re-exports, and also to some extent by non-requited cash receipts into the territory from Colonial Development and Welfare funds for general development and on behalf of the Gambian Minerals Ltd., and the Medical Research Council in connection with their activities.

The currency circulation figures given in Chapter 4 suggest that invisibles did in fact cover the apparent gap.

Chapter 6 : Production

LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

THERE are no figures available showing the areas under each of the main crops. The following figures give the estimated number of square miles of each type of land in the Gambia, based on the 150,000 maps.

	Sq. Miles
Forest Land	
(*a*) Forest Parks	131
(*b*) Uncultivated Savannah	1,039
Mangroves	
(*a*) Open Mangrove Forest	173
(*b*) Closed Mangrove Forest	61
Swamps	
(*a*) Salt flats	129
(*b*) Fresh during the rains, or throughout the year (including rice cultivation)	265
Upland cultivation, built-up areas, etc.	2,180
TOTAL	3,978 square miles

The cash crop, groundnuts, is grown on the light sandy soils, away from the riverine swamps. The staple foods are rice, millet and sorghum. Rice is cultivated in fresh water and in tidal swamps where the water is "salt free" for the requisite period, in small valleys in the Western Division and on low-lying land where the crop is rain-fed. In the Upper River Division little rice is grown owing to the uncertainty of the level of the high flood which occurs annually during the wet season. Sorghum and millet are planted either on land newly cleared from woodland or on fields manured by cattle. Maize is limited to small plots, around the houses, fertilized by household rubbish. Digitaria (findo) is sown on light upland soils of poor fertility. Little cotton is grown except by the Fulas.

Fruit trees—mangoes, oranges, bananas, pawpaws and limes—are planted round the houses in the villages, the numbers of trees being greatest in the Western Division. Dry season gardens, where onions, tomatoes, okra, peppers, etc., are grown, are cultivated near streams, beside wells, and on the edge of swamp land where water is available at a shallow depth.

Cattle find pasturage during the rainy season in the uncultivated uplands, and during the dry season in the low-lying lands bordering the river or in valleys with water courses. At harvest time cattle feed on sorghum leaves and, when the groundnuts have been threshed, on the groundnut haulms.

As the Gambia is a flat country, the only elevations being fifty to one hundred feet high laterite outcrops, one finds little evidence of gully erosion, and consequently there are no specific regulations dealing with land and water conservation.

The native system of farming is in effect a rotation system, a cycle of cultivation alternating with a period of fallow during which

land reverts to bush and the depleted fertility is partly restored. During the cultivation period, manuring by means of tethered cattle is practised whenever feasible.

Land Tenure in the Protectorate

Land tenure in the Protectorate is regulated by the Protectorate Lands Ordinance No. 16 of 1945. This was designed to preserve the existing customary rights of the indigenous inhabitants of the Protectorate to use and enjoy the land and to regulate the interests which could be acquired by non-indigenous persons in Protectorate land. It therefore declared that all Protectorate lands were vested in the Authorities of the Districts in which they were situated, to be held and administered for the use and common benefit of the communities concerned. Its effect in legal parlance is to vest the land in the District Authorities in trust for the inhabitants according to native law and custom. The Ordinance laid down the procedure to be adopted for leasing land, limiting the time for which it could be acquired and for fixing and revising rents, and stating the circumstances in which land could be acquired for public purposes. No land can be occupied by a non-indigene without the consent of the Authority concerned, and unless such consent is further implemented by the approval of the Divisional Commissioner, the occupier is deemed to be merely a tenant at will. Any tenancy intended to last for a period of more than three years must have a written agreement (a lease must be executed and no non-indigene may be granted a lease for a term greater than fifty years, though such lease may contain an option to renew. The use and occupation of land by indigenes is still governed by local customary law.

Land Tenure in the Colony

Land tenure in the Colony is regulated by the Colony Lands Ordinance, 1945. Land in the Colony is either freehold or Crown Land, substantially all the freehold land being situated in Bathurst itself where some 90 per cent of the town plots are freehold, with many of the grants dating back to the first half of the 19th century.

No freehold grants have been made in recent years and under the Colony Lands Ordinance no such grants may be made without the approval of the Secretary of State. Leases of Crown Land in the Colony are granted by the Government for terms, in some cases, of up to 99 years to encourage the erection of substantial buildings, but most residential leases are for 21 years with an option for a further 21 years. However, there is no statutory limitation on the length of terms which may be granted and no distinction is made in the ordinance between indigenes and non-indigenes.

Colony land outside Bathurst, that is to say, in the Kombo St. Mary Division, is held either on lease under the Colony Lands Ordinance, or on customary tenure which is deemed to be a year-

to-year tenancy of the Crown under the provisions of the Kombo St. Mary Division Ordinance, 1946, and in effect, in such cases, the Crown is in the position of the District Authorities in the Protectorate.

Holdings

Protectorate land held by non-indigenous inhabitants consists only of sites occupied by Government stations, by Missions, and of plots of land leased to traders. Most of the traders occupy land alongside the river in the "wharf towns," and the total acreage held by such traders and the Missions is small.

Government holdings, which include the Agricultural Station, Yundum Airport and the Walikunda Rice Farm amount in all to just under 3,500 acres.

A number of the African inhabitants of Bathurst have gardens and orchards in the Kombo Districts, holding the land under local customary law.

Land tenure in the Colony has been mentioned above, but in the Protectorate, rights over land were originally acquired by setling and clearing previously unclaimed lands, and, at a later stage, by grants from the early kings and chiefs. Such rights however were often modified by conquest and by groups asserting their independence.

Nowadays most farming land is acquired by the inheritance of rights to use land cleared by one's ancestors. Those wishing to found a new village may be granted unused land by the District Authority. On the foundation of a village, the headman allocates land to those who settle with him, and thereafter their descendants have the right to use such land. Most of the rights are exercised by the heads of compounds who decide where crops shall be planted, and allocate land to various members of the household. Land which is not required by its owner is freely lent for farming purposes for short periods, permission to use the land normally being renewed annually. No rent is paid, though a small gift is normally presented when the request for land is made. The selling of land is unknown, and the pledging of land very rare, and generally disapproved of.

Rents for land occupied by non-indigenous inhabitants, traders, etc., are paid to the District Authorities. The renting of farm land, however, is not practised in the Protectorate with the exception of the leases held by Government for the Yundum Experimental Station and the Gambia Rice Farm at Sapu.

In the Kombo districts there has developed in recent years the custom of renting shop sites in advantageous positions, the shops being situated in private compounds.

The chief progress in land utilisation has been the great extension of rice farming in the mangrove areas, made possible by the building of access causeways and bridges over deep creeks, yields in these zones being higher than on the upper edges of the swamps.

The work of the Veterinary Department has resulted in a great increase in cattle which are used for manuring the sorghum farms and maize plots near the villages.

AGRICULTURE

Groundnuts

The Gambian farmer remains largely dependent for his cash on groundnuts of which the total purchases (unshelled) by the Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Board for the season 1955-56 were 54,857 tons and in 1956-57, 77,396 tons. The price paid to the producer fell from £32 per ton in 1954-55 to £25 10*s*. 0*d*. in 1955-56 and rose in 1956-57 to £31 per ton. The net sums received by the farmers in the years 1955-56 and 1956-57 were £1,398,853 and £2,399,276 respectively. The crop year runs from June to May of the following year; seed is planted in June—July, the crop is harvested in October—November, and nuts are threshed and marketed from December to March. There are no plantations or estates. The crop is raised entirely by African farmers under a system of shifting cultivation. The yield per acre varies considerably, but is estimated to average between 600 and 700 lb.

An important feature of agricultural life in the territory is the seasonal immigrants who visit the Gambia for the express purpose of growing groundnuts. During the year 1956, 9,128 and during 1957, 9,656 "strange farmers" visited the Protectorate and contributed to the crop. These men come mostly from neighbouring French territories and, after raising and selling a crop of groundnuts, return to their homes. This movement is substantial and results to a certain extent from the relative abundance and cheaper price of consumer goods in the Gambia as compared with the conditions which prevail in the countries from which they come. Considerable variations occur in forms under which the immigrants work, but the general pattern is always the same. The landlord supplies board, lodging and land in return for which the "strange farmer" works a certain number of days for the landlord, depending upon the custom of the district; a cash payment is sometimes agreed upon as well.

The unshelled crop is bought by approved traders purchasing groundnuts on behalf of the respective Licensed Buying Agents of the Marketing Board. It is transported to the trading stations by donkey, lorry or canoe and thence by powered river craft and lighters, or by lorries, to one of three transit ports, Bathurst, Qaur and Kuntaur, where it is decorticated prior to being loaded into ocean-going vessels.

Since 1949, when the Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Board was established, all groundnuts and palm kernels have been purchased by the Board from the producers and marketed to the best advantage. During 1953 arrangements were made by the Board with local millers for the use of their decorticating plant and a portion of the

crop was decorticated prior to shipment. Subsequently the Marketing Board have erected their own decorticating plants at Kaur and Kuntaur and since the 1955—56 season the entire produce of the Gambia has been exported as shelled groundnuts.

Produce inspection is carried out by the Agricultural Department and the staff of the Marketing Board at the appointed Buying Stations where all nuts must be passed through rotary screens for cleaning before purchase. The Groundnuts (Standard of Quality) Ordinance, 1952, has continued to effect an improvement in the quality of the nuts purchased by the Board during the past two years.

Good crops of groundnuts were obtained from all Districts during the period under review and the territory largely escaped the ravages of the serious Rosette disease; some outbreaks were recorded both in 1955 and 1956, but they occurred as the crop was maturing and little serious loss resulted.

Other Export Products

Palm kernels are also exported. Exports during the post-war years, together with prices and returns to the producers have been as follows:

Year	*Quantity*	*Purchase Price per ton*	*Total sum paid to producer*
	tons	£ s. d.	£
1946–47 . . .	1,291	10 10 0	13,555
1947–48 . . .	1,159	12 0 0	13,908
1948–49 . . .	1,241	18 0 0	22,338
1949–50 . . .	1,551	21 0 0	32,571
1950–51 . . .	1,804	21 10 0	38,786
1951–52 . . .	1,558	29 0 0 – £45 0*s.* 0*d.*	67,064
1952–53 . . .	1,827	45 0 0	82,215
1953–54 . . .	1,765	30 0 0	52,950
1954–55 . . .	1,931	30 0 0	57,930
1955–56 . . .	1,715	30 0 0	51,450
1956–57 . . .	2,102	30 0 0	63,060

Both hand and power-driven palm kernel cracking machines continue to be used.

In addition to the above oilseeds, there was a small export trade in hides and beeswax.

Corps for Local Consumption

The principal crops for local consumption are rice, sorghum and millet (*Pennisetum spp.*), cassava, maize and beans (legumes). With the exception of swamp rice, these crops are grown on the upland soils, sorghum and millet forming a crop rotation with main cash crop, groundnuts. Cassava, maize and beans are produced on a smaller "back-yard" or compound scale and are seldom grown for sale.

Small plots of perennial cotton are to be found in most districts,

The lint has no commercial value and is used for village industries. Kapok and cotton trees are numerous in the middle and upper reaches of the river and there is some local trade in the floss for mattress and pillow-making.

In former years the Gambian farmer, in concentrating on the groundnut crop, neglected food production and as a result the territory was far from self-supporting in this respect. Latterly, the continuing efforts of the Government have brought home to him the virtue of being self-sufficient in food and more interest is now being shown in increased cultivation of subsistence crops.

Rice. Among the principal food crops grown, the most spectacular increase in local production has centred upon swamp rice. The earlier eagerness of the people to take advantage of schemes aimed at increasing rice production has been well maintained. The construction of access causeways from the upland into the rice swamp land and mangrove fringing the river has continued. Tractor ploughing by the Agricultural Department under contract terms of 30*s.* per acre plus 20*s.* per acre for discing has been maintained, although there was a reduction in the acreage cultivated in 1957 as the following figures indicate:

Year	*Total Acreage cultivated Mechanically*
1954	939
1955	1,530
1956	1,790
1957	1,083

The fall in acreage in 1957 was due to the low rainfall experienced in 1956, when considerable acreages mechanically ploughed in that year were either not cultivated or were planted with rice which failed to reach maturity. Apart from the cultivation in mangrove-cleared tidal land, the bulk of the country's rice crop is entirely dependent for four to five months on rainfall for its success or failure. In consequence of this fact the development of tractor ploughing has progressed in the "salt free" areas of the MacCarthy Island Division and has decreased where the period of fresh water flooding averages only four to five months and where there is consequently a risk of failure if total rainfall is low or unevenly distributed. The figures for mechanical cultivation in MacCarthy Island Division during the past three years are as follows:

Year	*Acres Disc Ploughed*
1955	132
1956	199
1957	441

Apart from the extension of cultivation, greater attention has been paid during the period under review to increasing the productive capacity of the rice lands. At the beginning of 1956 a rice specialist from India was appointed to introduce improved cultural techniques aimed at raising yields. In addition to an increased experimental programme at the Jenoi Rice Station, under the direction

of the rice specialist, and at the Gambia Rice Farm, plots have been laid down in the villages demonstrating such improvements in farming practice as the use of seed of proven varieties, correct preparation of rice nurseries, the optmum time and method of transplanting, and the use of green manures, organic manures and artificial fertilisers. The production per acre of paddy rice on farmers' land shows considerable room for improvement, as the following estimates of yields indicate:

	Paddy Average lb. per acre
Low-lying upland: broadcast	800
Low-lying upland: transplanted	1,000
Cleared mangrove and other tidal swamp land: transplanted	1,200

In order to give a further fillip to rice cultivation and raise its status from a woman's crop to a family endeavour, visits to the rice stations at Jenoi and Sapu were arranged during the wet seasons for Chiefs and village headmen as well as villagers themselves. In addition, the purchase and resale of rice cultivating tools was undertaken by the Department of Agriculture, lantern slides were shown in the villages, and in 1957 young men were accepted as trainees at the Jenoi station to acquire sound practical knowledge in the correct methods of rice cultivation.

The processing of the crop is still carried out largely by hand, but the Department of Agriculture continues to experiment with mobile rice threshers and hulling machinery.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The administrative organisation has remained the same during the period under review. The authorised establishment of the Department, showing the number of officers in posts at the end of 1957, was as follows:

Establishment	*Posts Filled*
Director	1
4 Agricultural Officers	4
1 Pest Control Officer	1
1 Mechanical Superintendent	1
1 Agricultural Superintendent	1
1 Rice Specialist	1
1 Manager Experimental Station	1
1 Assistant Manager Experimental Station	1
1 Agronomist	1
2 Soil Scientists and 1 Plant Physiologist	1
1 Tractor Ploughing Officer	0
30 Agricultural Assistants, Instructors and learners	27

One Gambian is undergoing post-graduate training, prior to returning as the Colony's first locally-recruited Agricultural Officer and there are two students in training at the Agricultural Training College at N'Jala in Sierra Leone.

EFFORTS TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Research

Investigation into the problems of soil fertility resulting in the low level of production on the sandy upland soils of the territory have continued. Research into the nutrient requirements of various upland crops has suggested that a number of minor elements, in addition to the major ones, are limiting factors of crop growth. Whilst this work has continued to receive the attention of the Plant Physiologist, a number of fertiliser trials have been laid down at scattered sites in the Colony. In the 1956-57 season fertiliser experiments at five sites, the average increase in yield over the control plots receiving no fertilizer was 45 per cent. Further modifications, based on plot experiments under laboratory conditions, were made to the various fertilizer mixtures in the 1957-58 experiments, which were laid down at seven sites in the Colony, and it is hoped to extend these experiments still further in 1958 by distributing to each of the 35 Chiefs in the Protectorate small quantities of what is considered to approach an ideal mixture for groundnuts on the sandy soils of the territory, and to measure and record the response to the fertiliser treatment.

In addition to a deficiency of plant nutrients there is a serious lack of organic material in the upland soils, and the effect of additions of a composted mixture of night soil and groundnut shells, as well as of the application of a grass mulch to upland crops, including groundnuts, is also being studied.

Control of Pests and Diseases

The main work during the period under review has again been concerned with the control of insects infesting groundnuts both prior to and after harvesting. The member of the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology's Pool of Entomologists who arrived in May, 1955, concluded his investigations into the pre-harvest insect pests of groundnuts early in 1957 and as a result of the very thorough survey carried out in this period it is evident that the territory's most serious pre-harvest pest is the species of Aphid responsible for the transmission of the virus which produces the well known Rosette Disease of groundnuts; recommendations regarding the control of such pests as *Aphanus sp.* were made.

Following the post-harvest investigation made during 1954-55, a further visit by a member of Pest Infestation Laboratory was made during February-March, 1956, to determine the extent to which certain recommendations (made as a result of the 1954-1955 investigations) had been implemented and the degree of control achieved. The results of the control measures which were adopted on the recommendation of the Pest Infestation Laboratory were considered sufficiently favourable to warrant the appointment of a Pest Control officer and the introduction of regulations making compulsory the insecticidal treatment of harvested groundnuts.

Agricultural Improvement Schemes

The Department has continued with the manufacture of compost, using night soil and groundnut shell; apart from a few experiments now being conducted on upland soils, the application of compost continues to be largely confined to the low-lying rice swamps and its use within a fifteen mile radius of the compost factory continues to expand both for wet season rice and for dry season vegetable cultivation.

Ox-ploughing Scheme

The cultivation of upland soils, using draught oxen and single furrow ploughing, has been practised for many years in the Upper River Division, mainly by Serahuli and Fula farmers. Trained oxen and implements have been obtained in the past largely from neighbouring French territory. In 1955 the Department undertook the training of oxen and of men by establishing ploughing schools in villages with the object of not only breaking in draught oxen and training farmers to operate ox-drawn equipment, but also of inculcating farmers owning cattle to appreciate the value of mixed farming in maintaining soil fertility. By the end of 1957, seven of these schools were operating, and the total of young men under training was 39, together with 90 bullocks. Contact has been maintained with those who successfully "graduated" from the schools during 1956, (9 men and 24 beasts) six of whom ploughed a total of 242 acres in their respective villages during the 1957 season. Over £600 of ox-drawn equipment was sold during the period under review in addition to 8 ox-carts, the latter on an instalment system of payment. The axles and wheels of the carts are imported and the "tipper" type wooden bodies are made and assembled on the spot by local craftsmen—carpenters and blacksmiths.

Irrigation: Gambia Rice Farm

The Gambia Rice Farm originated in 1948 when the Colonial Development Corporation took the initial steps in a scheme for empoldering some 7,000 acres of riverine swamp land at Pachari and Wallikunda in the MacCarthy Island Division. The scheme envisaged, in addition to empoldering, the provision of a pumping station and a system of canals and drains, the latter delivering into the river through tidal flaps. Construction began in 1950, but following a number of set-backs, due to exceptionally heavy rainfall and to an unusually high flood level of the river Gambia, the Corporation stopped the construction of capital works pending an assessment of the situation. Having adopted the recommendations of the Mission appointed to undertake this assessment, the Corporation later decided to close down the project. In 1953 the farm was taken over by the Gambia Government and with the assistance of Colonial Development and Welfare funds continued on a greatly reduced scale on an experimental basis with the object of testing the develop-

ment of fully mechanised cultivation of rice both with and without water control and in partnership with local peasant participation. In addition to conducting experiments with rice and a number of dry-season crops, including tobacco, and cotton, the farm has increased its acreage and commercial yield of rice, as the following figures indicate:

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Total area under cultivation (acres) . .	203	276	425	529	600	570
Total yield (tons) . .	93	206	282	411	474	400
Average yield per acre (lb.)	1,081	1,668	1,415	1,740	1,771	1,572

FORESTRY

The number of Forest Parks remains at 66 gazetted areas comprising 131½ square miles. The ratio of proclaimed forest to total land areas of the Gambia thus stands at 3.3 per cent.

There is still considerable scope for the extension of reservations, as it has been tentatively estimated that there exist, in addition to the 131½ square miles demarcated, 1,039 square miles of tree savannah and bush and 234 square miles of mangrove.

Afforestation programmes absorbed 5,600 plants and cuttings of hardwood species.

Current marketing of timber is very restricted, as the existing stands of merchantable timber are small and scattered. Prices paid to producers are in the region of 14*s.* per cubit foot for unseasoned mahogany; Rhuns sell for about 31*s.* per stem and charcoal at 2*s.* 6*d.* per bag.

The salaried staff of the Forestry Department at the close of 1957 comprised three Forest Rangers and three Forest Guards. The Forestry Adviser left on final leave early in 1957, and since then forestry activities have been conducted on a "care and maintenance" basis only. A new Government Forester was expected early in 1958.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The Veterinary Department

The administrative organisation has remained the same since 1952 and continues to be based on a headquarters which are now well established at Abuko in buildings erected with assistance provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act and four field stations each situated at or close to the administrative headquarters of a Division of the Protectorate. In addition there is a sub-station at Essau on the North Bank of Western Division to deal mainly with the considerable number of trade cattle which pass through from Senegal to the Bathurst meat market. Each field unit consists of one Veterinary Assistant, one Senior Veterinary Inspector and four or

five Veterinary Inspectors. The outstation buildings which were built of temporary structures some ten to fifteen years ago are now being replaced with permanent structures erected by the Public Works Department.

The total establishment comprises a Principal Veterinary Officer, a Veterinary Officer, a Laboratory Superintendent, a Senior Veterinary Assistant, six Veterinary Assistants, and four Senior Veterinary Inspectors, all of which are pensionable posts. In addition there are 16 Veterinary Inspectors and clerical ancillary staff. A useful auxiliary to the field staff, especially in the early detection of the outbreak of disease, is what have become known as Cattle Guards. These men are employed by the District Authorities and are trained by the Veterinary Department in the rudiments of veterinary inspection for a minimum of one year and then sent back to their respective districts, their salaries being borne both during and after training by the District Authorities.

Owing to the small size of the staff, the activities of the Department have been mainly concerned with the control of animal disease, with the emphasis on preventive measures against the major epizootic diseases. The success of these measures have resulted in a steady annual increase of cattle from 30,000 in 1934 to probably more than five times that number in 1957. As this number of cattle is more than the land can safely carry, destocking has featured prominently in the livestock policy of the period under review. This may be summarised as follows:

(*a*) Reduction in the present number of cattle. This is regarded as of paramount importance.

(*b*) The up-grading of Gambia cattle which are of the Ndama type with an admixture of zebu blood, by the use of pure Ndama stock.

(*c*) The encouragement of mixed farming.

The control of disease still remains of course an important part of policy, since the livestock diseases concerned are either epizootic or enzootic in the Gambia and the territories surrounding it.

To implement the above policy, a veterinary improvement scheme was formulated, funds for which were approved under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, in July, 1956. The scheme has never been in full operation owing to the difficulty of obtaining suitable staff, but with the Veterinary Department staff and a Livestock Marketing Officer, recruited under the scheme, it has functioned to a limited extent. It is still hoped to find the necessary staff and in the meantime the arrival in the Gambia of an animal husbandry expert, under the auspices of the United Nations Technical Assistance Bureau, for a period of one year will enable the scheme to develop.

Livestock

Figures for the last census of livestock are as follows:

	Central Division	Western Division	MacCarthy Island Division	Upper River Division	Total
Cattle . . .	29,249	26,183	25,900	14,145	122,477
Sheep . . .	17,357	9,427	11,494	12,250	50,528
Goats . . .	27,204	16,645	16,241	15,378	75,468
Pigs . . .	43	2,532	48	—	2,623
Horses . . .	20	6	22	161	209
Donkeys . .	678	488	646	2,495	4,307
Poultry . . .	42,616	104,728	36,361	43,424	227,129

The average number of livestock (in round figures) slaughtered per annum is as follows:

	Cattle	Sheep*	Pigs	Goats*
Colony area, including Bathurst . . .	3,000	400	1,000	700
Western Division . .	300	80	10	500
MacCarthy Island Division	700	100	—	200
Central Division . .	400	100	—	80

*The figures for sheep and goats are unreliable as many more are killed privately.

A large amount of fresh milk is produced in Kombo St. Mary and parts of Western Division for consumption in Bathurst. In the Protectorate fermented milk forms an important part of the diet of the Fula herdsmen who sell an appreciable quantity of ghee to the other tribes. Hides and skins are rough-cured by firms in Bathurst and exported, the average quantity per annum amounting to 37 tons. Some hides also find their way to Portuguese Guinea where they command a higher price.

FISHING

The seas off the Atlantic coasts provide excellent fishing grounds which are worked by fishermen from the coastal villages and from Bathurst, and from as far afield as the Senegal and Portuguese and French Guinea. In the main the fishing canoes depend upon oar and wind, but experiments in using outboard motors have met with sufficient success to warrant the Government approving loans from the Farmers' Fund for purchasing engines to be fitted to canoes.

There is a fairly well-organised system of distribution by bicycle and lorry from the fishing villages to Bathurst and inland for a distance of some seventy miles. The fish smoking and drying industry is well established in the Kombo district and considerable quantities of cured fish are not only supplied to Bathurst and the Protectorate but also to Freetown in Sierra Leone.

The local fishermen have shown an interest in the propaganda of the Co-operative Department and as a result a Co-operative Credit and Supply Society has been formed.

In up-river fishing, fishermen from the Senegal predominate. Their large o cean-going canoes may be seen at all times of the year,

but especially in the trade season when they import salt, which, with the fish they catch, is sold or exchanged for rice, millet and other grains for export to the Senegal.

SHIPBUILDING

The old-established cutter-building industry is still followed by Gambian shipwrights. The cutters, which are all sailing vessels without auxiliary power, are substantially built of timber throughout. The design of these craft appears to be of Portuguese origin and probably dates from the period of Portuguese influence in the Gambia around the 17th and early 18th centuries. The craft are distinctive because of their excessive sheer which is unusual in vessels designed for inland water operation. Many also carry an unusual topsail which is not normally seen outside the Mediterranean and is probably of early Portuguese origin.

All cutters built in the Gambia have exactly the same lines and are merely scaled up or down to the required tonnage.

The number of shipwrights still engaged in cutter building and fitting has dropped considerably in recent years, but fitting and repairs to vessels still remains one of Bathurst's principal industries.

In addition to cutter-building, a number of shipwrights continue to build canoes at Barra. These Barra sailing canoes again are distinctive in design. They vary in size but are generally about 40-50 feet in length. The larger craft carry two spritsails.

MINING

In 1953, considerable deposits of ilmenite were discovered on the old storm beaches along the Atlantic coast. Legislation governing the gaining of mineral was provided in the Minerals Ordinance, 1953, and the Mineral Rules, 1954. Prospecting rights are held by a subsidiary of a large United Kingdom firm which has, during the period under review, proved the extent of the reserves and erected quarters for staff, mining and treating machinery and ancillary buildings, and has constructed several miles of road and light railway. Mining operations were begun in 1956 and up to the end of November, 1957, 18,350 tons of ilmenite had been extracted; of this quantity 10,240 tons had been shipped to the United Kingdom.

Investigations are also being undertaken to discover whether workable reserves of oil are present in the Gambia.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The Co-operative Societies Ordinance, 1950, is administered by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies whose office is a sub-section of the Secretariat. There are two trained Inspectors and two Inspectors in training.

Since 1955 the number of registered Societies has grown from 4 with 74 members to 25 with 1,560 members. Fourteen are Village

Produce Marketing Societies, five are Thrift and Credit Societies, five are Craftsmen's Supply Societies and one is a Civil Servants Consumer Society. In the 1956-57 season the 14 Marketing Societies handled almost £16,000 worth of produce, mostly groundnuts, and their total net profit was in the region of £1,600.

Towards the end of 1957, there were an additional 10 Village Marketing Societies progressing towards registration and one Teachers' Training College Consumer Society in the same position. Few even of the registered groups are yet fit to manage their own affairs, but definite progress is being made. Although development has been so far confined to the area within 40 miles of Bathurst interest throughout the territory is keen.

In 1956 the Government provided £1,200 at 5 per cent for short-term subsistence loans to farmers as an experiment. The money was repaid in full and the experiment was extended in 1957 when loans of £4,200 were made, due for repayment in early 1958. Without such external finance and the practical assistance of the Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Board it is doubtful if even this limited early success could have been achieved. Co-operation in the Gambia is not yet in a position to weather any substantial storms though Societies have faced up well to many minor squalls.

Chapter 7 : Social Services

EDUCATION

Administration

The Education Department is administered by a Director under the terms of the Education Ordinance. There are Education Officers in charge of the Colony and Protectorate education, and a Woman Education Officer who supervises primary education in the Colony. The Department is also responsible for the Training College at Yundum, the Armitage Secondary School at Georgetown, and the Clerical and Technical Schools in Bathurst.

Primary Education

Bathurst and Colony. In Bathurst there are 11 Government schools and one Mission school, with a total of 110 classes and an enrolment of nearly 4,000 pupils, representing about 60 per cent of the estimated potential within the primary age group.

The Government schools include eight former voluntary agency schools which, since 1946, have been entirely financed by the Government under the terms of local agreements. The management committees of those schools in which the voluntary agencies retain majorities control the appointment and transfer of staff, all of whom,

with the exception of one Sister seconded from the Roman Catholic Mission, are Government employees. These schools thus retain their denominational identity, which is as follows:

Anglican-Methodist	1 Infants' School
	1 Girls' Primary School
	1 Boys' Primary School
Mohammedan	1 Infants' School
	1 Primary School (mixed)
Roman Catholic	1 Infants' School
	1 Girls' Primary School
	1 Boys' Primary School

Of the other Government schools, one is a new infants school of 12 classes, built with the aid of Colonial Development and Welfare funds and opened early in 1957, while the remaining two are afternoon schools working in temporary accommodation. In addition, the Methodist Mission has a preparatory school for its own High Schools. The staff are employed by the Mission, but their salaries attract a grant from the Government. In the rural area of the Colony, there are two Government schools and one owned by the Roman Catholic Mission.

Pupils enter the infant classes at the age of five and pass, after three years, into the primary schools whence, after four more years, about 30 per cent gain admission to one of the four secondary schools; for the remainder, a further three years' primary education is provided. The pattern will change, however, in 1958, with the opening of a new Government post-primary school which also has been built with the aid of a grant under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. This school will absorb all senior primary classes save those in the Roman Catholic schools, whose Management Committee prefer to retain the pupils in the existing schools.

The enrolment of pupils to Bathurst schools is over 400 a year, and neither staff nor buildings are yet adequate for this number. Staff is being trained at Yundum College but, notwithstanding the two new schools previously referred to, there is a severe shortage of accommodation and, in consequence, 18 classes are meeting in afternoon sessions.

School fees in Government schools are 1*s.* per month and in the Mission Schools from £4 to £6 per annum, but there is provision for the remission of fees in approved cases.

A notable feature of Bathurst and Colony Schools is the provision of free milk to all pupils under 10 years of age: the milk is supplied in powder form by UNICEF and mixed under the supervision of the Domestic Science Organiser. The scheme is administered jointly by the Education and Health Departments.

There is a Government Domestic Science Centre attended by all girls in the senior classes and an Arts and Crafts Centre which caters for boys.

Protectorate. There are 30 village schools in the Protectorate

with a total enrolment of 1,444 pupils, and an individual enrolment ranging from 19 to 188 pupils. Twenty-two of these are owned by District Authorities. Of the other eight, six belong to the Roman Catholic Mission, one to the Anglican Mission and one is operated jointly by the Methodist Mission and District Authority. All qualified teachers in the District Authority Schools are employed by the Government and the salaries of qualified teachers in Mission schools are reimbursed from public funds.

The District Authority schools at present provide a four year course from the age of eight; after this pupils may gain admission to a secondary school in Bathurst, the Armitage School at Georgetown, or to the senior classes of a primary school in Bathurst or the Colony. The four-year course is recognised as inadequate and this has been reflected in a recent falling-off in enrolment to village schools. At their Conference in 1957, the Protectorate Chiefs proposed an extension of the primary course, and the extension of facilities for post-primary education in the Protectorate. The proposals are still being studied, but the extension of the primary course has been accepted in principle.

Armitage School at Georgetown provides the only post-primary course in the Protectorate and in 1957 it had five classes of 82 pupils, all of whom were boarders. Further expansion will be possible when the school is housed in new buildings to be erected in 1958-59.

In 1956 and the first half of 1957, the direction of education in the Protectorate was vested in a committee, but the Department resumed executive control in July, 1957.

Secondary Education

Secondary education is concentrated at Bathurst where the Methodist and Roman Catholic Missions each maintain a boys' and a girls' school with a total enrolment of 747 pupils in 1957. All schools follow courses leading to the West African School Certificate and in December, 1957, 38 pupils took this examination. The schools share a laboratory at the Bathurst School of Science, an independent institution under combined Mission and Government management; at present only biology is taught to School Certificate level.

Salaries of secondary school staff are reimbursed to the Missions by the Government, which also awards about 20 scholarships a year to pupils who succeed in the scholarship examination. These cover school fees of £6 per annum, with maintenance allowances for Protectorate pupils. A small number of scholarships are also provided by the Bathurst Town Council, while District Authorities in the Protectorate award scholarships to a large proportion of the pupils at Armitage school.

In 1956, it was decided to implement a recommendation of the Baldwin Report of 1951 for the provision of an independent non-denominational secondary school in Bathurst. An Ordinance estab-

lishing the school was to be laid before the Legislative Council early in 1958.

Teacher Training

Yundum College is the only institution for the training of teachers and now admits 30 students a year, men and women, for a three-year residential course. There were 57 students in 1957, including 10 teachers who had returned for further training after completing a shorter course earlier. There are expected to be 77 students in 1958. The course was extended from two to three years in 1956, with a consequent delay of one year in the qualifying of teachers who commenced training in 1955. Entrance is by examination and interview, and the minimum requirement is the completion of Primary Standard VII. Refresher courses are held during the vacations, and it is intended to continue the policy of in-service training for teachers who have had only a year of training.

From the end of 1955 to July, 1957, the College was an independent institution under its own Board of Governors. Thereafter it again came under the direct administration of the Department.

As in the previous two years a small number of experienced teachers have attended one-year courses at training colleges in England and, during 1956, a number of young women entered English training colleges to take the Ministry of Education two-year course.

Vocational Training

There is a Government Technical School in Bathurst providing a five-year course in carpentry and masonry for 30 pupils. The premises have been extended and it is intended to introduce instruction in motor fitting and electrical trades as soon as circumstances permit.

The Clerical School trains Government servants and some private pupils in shorthand, typing, English, arithmetic and book-keeping. The school runs two courses each year, each for about 20 students.

Schools, Pupils and Teachers: June, 1957

	No. of Primary Schools	*Pupils*		*Total*	*No. of Secondary Schools*	*Pupils*		*Total*	*No. of Teachers*	
		Boys	*Girls*			*Boys*	*Girls*		*Primary*	*Secondary*
Protectorate	30	1,201	194	1,395	1	82	—	82	61	6
Colony .	14	2,743	1,842	4,585	4	448	299	747	149	31
Total	44	3,944	2,036	5,980	5	530	299	829	210	37

Estimated Expenditure on Education, 1956 and 1957, Protectorate and Colony

Year	Personal Emoluments						Other Charges						
	Administration £	Teacher training £	Vocational training £	Secondary £	Elementary £	Total £	Administration £	Teacher training £	Vocational training £	Secondary £	Primary £	Total £	Grand total £
1956	11,680	7,251	3,954	3,442	36,131	62,458	3,649	6,623	4,445	15,660	9,272	39,649	102,107
1957	12,939	8,533	4,624	9,546	39,912	75,554	2,949	12,150	4,720	22,430	14,153	56,402	131,956

HEALTH

A combination of geographical factors causes the presence in the Gambia of several important vectors of so-called "Tropical disease". These vectors include a variety of mosquitos, which spread malaria, yellow fever, and filariasis; tsetse flies, which spread trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness); a number of species of snails, which spread schistosomiasis (bilharzia); and flies, which are capable of spreading many diseases. Round-worms, hook-worms, and tape-worms all flourish in the Gambia, and the first two, at least, infect a considerable portion of the population. The micro-organisms of yaws and endemic syphilis, tuberculosis, leprosy, smallpox, trachoma, cerebro-spinal meningitis, tetanus, rabies, and dysentery, all occur, and each contributes its quota of disease and death. In addition, many of the diseases, nfectious and otherwise, which occur in temperate climates also occur in the Gambia, to a greater or lesser extent.

It should not be supposed, however, from this formidable list, that the population is riddled with disease, and that progress is not being made. Malaria in the Gambia is a mild disease, except in young children, and yellow fever, so deadly to the non-immune, apparently causes no appreciable symptoms in the immune population. Similarly the local forms of smallpox, trypanosomiasis, and schistosomiasis are much milder than in some parts of Africa. Smallpox, yaws and endemic syphilis all appear to be decreasing in incidence, possibly due to the increasing efficiency of control measures.

It should be considered also that the population of the Gambia is not greatly subject to a number of diseases of more highly developed and industrialised societies, such as rheumatic diseases, peptic ulcer, bronchitis, and cancer of the lung, nor to such infectious diseases as diptheria and poliomyelitis.

Vital Statistics

Accurate figures are available only for Bathurst and are affected by the use made of institutions by those visiting Bathurst for the purpose. In the rest of the Colony, and in the Protectorate, vital registration is voluntary and is very incomplete. The table below shows the principal statistics for the past five years in Bathurst.

BATHURST

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Mid-year Population	19,843	20,097	20,580	21,022	21,545
No. of live-births	735	669	770	894	926
Birth rate per 1,000	37.0	33.3	37.4	42.5	43.0
No. of deaths	384	343	350	429	346
Death-rate per 1,000	19.4	17.1	17.0	20.4	16.1
No. of deaths under one year	78	77	73	93	74
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 live-births)	106.1	115.1	94.8	104.0	79.9
No. of Still-births	46	44	40	56	54
Still-birth rate (per 1,000 total births)	58.9	61.7	49.4	58.9	55.1

It should be noted that the increase in the number of births in 1956–57 is partly artificial, insofar as the figure is based on the more complete notifications received from the attendants at births, rather than on registration by parents, as previously. Similarly, for still-births in 1957, the more accurate figures from the Register of Burial Permits have been used, rather than the previous notifications from the attendant.

From the table it will be seen that in 1956 there were considerable increases in the general death-rate and in the infantile mortality-rate, as well as in the still-birth rate which, being based on a small number of cases, is subject to considerable fluctuation. The cause of the increase in the first two rates was an increased number of deaths among children under the age of five, attributed to complications of whooping cough and measles, both of which were common in Bathurst in the second half of the year.

By contrast with 1956, in 1957 the death-rate fell considerably and at 16.1 per 1,000 it was the lowest recorded in the past five years. The infant mortality-rate was the lowest ever recorded, at 79.9 per 1,000 live-births and the birth rate, at 43.0 per 1,000 was the highest ever recorded.

Staff

Early in 1956, the paucity of medical officers gave rise to much anxiety; at one time there were only two medical officers for duty in Victoria Hospital, Bathurst. However, the situation improved and by the end of the year more medical officers were employed than ever before. The recruitment of nursing sisters had also given rise to concern, but the position was satisfactory at the end of 1957.

To strengthen the administration of Victoria Hospital, Bathurst, new posts of Medical Superintendent and Matron were created in 1956, and in conformity with the policy of expanding the medical services in the Protectorate, further posts of Senior Medical Officer (Protectorate) and Medical Officer (Leprosy) were also created. All these posts were filled during the year.

Three Health Inspectors were sent to the United Kingdom during the period under review, to obtain advanced training, one of them with a WHO fellowship, and another with a scholarship granted by the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis.

In 1956, Miss Rosemary Hale, a WHO Nursing Consultant, visited the Gambia to study the needs and the present and future resources of the nursing services, and subsequently submitted a report. Some of the recommendations in this report have already been implemented and it is hoped to implement others with the assistance of WHO. Meanwhile, supplies of equipment and materials for training purposes were received from UNICEF and were brought into use.

At the end of 1957 the establishment, under the Director of Medical Services, included the following:

1 Medical Officer of Health.
1 Medical Supt., Victoria Hospital.
1 Senior Medical Officer, Protectorate.
6 Medical Officers, general duties.
1 Medical Officer, Leprosy.
1 Medical Officer, Health (in charge Mother and Child Welfare clinics).
2 Dental Surgeons.
1 Matron.
1 Senior Nursing Sister.
9 Nursing Sisters.
2 Public Health Nursing Sisters.
1 Dental Mechanic.
1 Senior Health Superintendent.
3 Health Superintendents.
1 Chief Dispenser.
1 Medical Storekeeper.
1 Radiographer.

Facilities for Medical Treatment

The principal medical units are the Victoria Hospital, Bathurst, and Bansang Hospital, towards the eastern end of the Protectorate. At the end of 1957, Victoria Hospital had 180 beds, and of its ancillary units, the Mental Hospital had 24 beds, the Sanatorium 23, and the Home for the Infirm 20. Bansang Hospital had 65 beds, and in addition there were 29 patients at the nearby Allatento Leprosy Colony.

Outside Bathurst, there is a chain of rural medical units scattered throughout the country in the form of seven Health Centres, 13 Dispensaries, and 24 Sub-dispensaries. The following table gives the latest available figures for attendance at these units.

Year	*New Cases*	*Total Attendances*
1954	109,323	263,390
1955	113,966	253,704
1956	111,855	259,887
1957	123,949	259,733

Health Services (Preventive)

At the end of 1957 there were in the Health Service one Medical Officer, three Health Superintendents, two Public Health Nursing Sisters, and 34 Health Inspectors, under the Medical Officer of Health, who is responsible to the Director of Medical Services for this service. Of the Health Inspectors, 17 are posted to areas in the Protectorate. The mobility and effectiveness of these health inspectors was increased in 1956 by helping them to procure and maintain motorcycles.

Much importance is attached to the work of the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, held in Bathurst at a special centre, and outside Bathurst at 20 health centres and dispensaries scattered throughout the country. The tables below show the increasing use being made of these clinics, and of the domiciliary midwifery service which is based on them.

Year	*Ante-Natal Clinics*		*Child Welfare Clinics*	
	New Cases	*Total Attendances*	*New Cases*	*Total Attendances*
1954	3,634	16,061	7,185	63,345
1955	3,903	14,349	9,433	66,462
1956	4,346	16,310	9,458	69,093
1957	5,286	16,562	10,573	65,318

Domiciliary Midwifery Service

Year	*Live-births*	*Still-births*	*Total births*
1954	1,065	49	1,114
1955	1,221	57	1,278
1956	1,254	81	1,335
1957	1,750	93	1,843

During most of the period 1956-57, the work of the clinics was seriously handicapped by lack of senior staff. The work of the Health Inspectors varies from the comparatively highly developed health service in Bathurst, with its port health work, enforcement of building regulations, inspection of shops, etc. to the more simple measures, such as mass vaccination, compound inspection, and simple health education in the Protectorate.

Principal Diseases

Malaria. Different species of the anopheline mosquito which transmits malaria breed in fresh and in brackish water in the Gambia. In Bathurst it seems likely that the land reclamation schemes and drainage programme of recent years have considerably altered the picture of transmission, by markedly reducing the number of mosquitos which breed all the year round in brackish water, and increasing the proportion of mosquitos which breed principally during the rains in fresh water. It follows that the incidence of morbidity and mortality from malaria in Bathurst, the only place where reasonably accurate figures are available, will almost certainly differ from that in the adjoining Kombos, where conditions are dissimilar, and the same will apply to other parts of the Protectorate, where conditions differ again from both these places.

The table below shows the death-rates from malaria in Bathurst, per 1,000, below the age of five, and in those aged five and over, for the past five years.

Year	No. of Malaria Deaths under 5 years	Malaria Death-rate under 5 years	No. of Malaria Deaths over 5 years	Malaria Death rate over 5 years	Total Malaria Death-rate
1953	22	8.57	8	.46	1.51
1954	30	11.54	13	.74	2.14
1955	28	10.52	18	1.01	2.24
1956	49	18.01	9	.49	2.76
1957	13	4.78	4	.22	.81

The figures for 1957 are too small for analysis, but the following table shows the distribution of deaths from malaria in Bathurst by age-groups, for the previous five-year period, 1952-56.

Age-group	Mean Annual Deaths	Mean Annual Death-rate per 1,000
0—5	144	10.99
—10	17	1.68
—20	8	.43
—30	8	.46
—40	5	.32
—50	8	.73
—60	5	.73
60+	1	.11
Total	196	1.94

These figures show an increase in the number of deaths from malaria, until 1957, and then a dramatic drop. They also show that three quarters of all deaths from malaria in Bathurst occur below the age of five, and in fact, three fifths of all such deaths during the same period occurred under the age of three. In 1956, for example the death-rate for malaria above the age of five was only 1/37th of that below this age.

It is apparent then that malaria, in Bathurst, is a highly dangerous disease below the age of five, and especially below the age of three. From then on, the immunity which has been obtained from exposure to the disease renders malaria of small significance as a cause of death.

Towards the end of 1957 Sir Gordon Covell, a WHO consultant, visited the Gambia at the request of the Government, to review the malaria position and recommend what action might be necessary, his report is awaited.

Yellow Fever. A survey carried out in 1955 showed that in the greater part of the Protectorate there was a high level of immunity, caused by recent infection, but no clinical evidence of the disease. The area of the Kombos, near Bathurst, however, showed a low level of immunity, with no evidence of infection more recent than

could be accounted for by the last known epidemic of 1934-35. It was therefore decided to carry out a programme of mass vaccination in the Kombos, to prevent an epidemic wave spreading from the inland endemic areas. This programme was carried out in 1956, with the assistance of the Federal Laboratory Service, Yaba, Nigeria, using scratch vaccination. Altogether 17,680 persons were vaccinated, estimated to be 99.7 per cent of the population at risk. Whereas before vaccination only 29 per cent of the population were immune, after vaccination the incidence of immunity was raised to 90 per cent and the over-all conversion-rate was 86.3 per cent.

Tuberculosis. This remains a serious problem in Bathurst, and 72 cases were notified in 1956 compared with 32 the previous year. It is very unlikely that the number of new infections should have more than doubled in the space of a year, and it is considered that the apparent increase is due to greater readiness of patients to come forward for treatment in view of improved facilities, and to improved notification. The increase in notifications continued in 1957, and 153 cases were notified in the first 10 months of the year. In 1956 a Tuberculosis Outpatient Clinic was opened at Victoria Hospital, and has much improved the facilities available for treatment. Patients usually spend about three months in the Sanatorium, and then are discharged to attend the Out-Patient Clinic, where they continue drug therapy to which the local type of tuberculosis responds well. During the first 10 months of 1957, 118 patients attended the Outpatient Clinic for the first time, and there are commonly about 80 patients attending each week.

Leprosy. In view of the high incidence of leprosy found during recent surveys, the assistance of WHO and UNICEF was invoked, and a large quantity of drugs, with a specially equipped vehicle, microscopes, etc., were received from the latter organisation in 1956. In that year a Medical Officer was recruited to organise leprosy control, and having spent six months in Nigeria to obtain training in the latest methods, he set to work towards the end of 1957. A number of clinics had been established in the Western and Central Divisions by the end of the year.

Schistosomiasis (*Bilharzia*). An important observation was made in 1956, by a scientific officer of the Colonial Medical Research Service, of the occurrence of intestinal schistosomiasis at the village of Jiborah in the Western Division. This was the first record of the intestinal form of the disease in the Gambia.

Nutrition

Since the second world war a great deal of work has been done on nutrition in the Gambia. Protein deficiencies have been reported, and also certain vitamin deficiencies, although neither of them to the extent which is seen elsewhere in Africa. Nevertheless, the subject was considered of sufficient moment to solicit the assistance of

WHO and UNICEF and a dietary supplements and school feeding project was commenced in Bathurst at the beginning of 1956. The supplements consisted of dried skim milk, and capsules of vitamins A and D. The recipients are pregnant women, nursing mothers, children under the age of six years, and school children between the ages of six and 10 years.

Distribution to the first three groups was done through the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, and to the last group through the schools. To make the milk provided by UNICEF more palatable it was mixed with sugar, provided by the Government. The daily ration was 2 oz. of dried milk and $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of sugar.

In 1956, 619,850 daily rations of milk and sugar were distributed through the clinics in Bathurst, and 321,480 daily rations through the schools. This represented a total distribution of approximately 53 tons of dried skim milk, and 13 tons of sugar.

Vitamin capsules were distributed simultaneously with the distribution of milk. At first all groups received the vitamins, but later on the advice of WHO, school children ceased to receive them. Altogether 448,719 vitamin capsules were distributed during 1956.

In 1957, another distribution centre was opened in Bathurst, and distribution was extended to seven clinics in the Western Division with the assistance of a van provided by UNICEF. A total of 782,530 daily rations of milk and sugar was distributed through the clinics in Bathurst, and 318,542 daily rations through the schools. In addition, 799,050 daily rations were distributed through the clinics in the Western Division. The total distribution of daily rations in all areas was therefore 1,900,122, representing 106 tons of dried skim milk, and $26\frac{1}{2}$ tons of sugar, or exactly double that of 1956.

Owing to non-availability of stocks, the distribution of vitamin capsules was restricted to 260,588 in 1957.

Research

Research on tropical diseases is carried out by the Medical Research Council Laboratories at Fajara outside Bathurst, and at the Field Station at Keneba, in the Central Division of the Protectorate. Both resident staff and visiting workers take part in this work, and the results, which are of special application to the Gambia, are published in current professional journals.

During 1956 and 1957 research was principally concerned with malaria, anaemia, filariasis, schistosomiasis (bilharzia), ascariasis (round-worms), ankylostomiasis (hook worms), the composition of blood proteins, and trachoma. The last was a new departure, and was carried out by the Trachoma Research Group of the Medical Research Council. It has become apparent that there is a considerable amount of trachoma in the Gambia, although it is not yet possible to give even an approximate incidence, nor to estimate the damage done by the disease. During 1957, 20 research projects were undertaken in connection with these problems.



H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh at Sankwia village.



H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh at the march past of schoolchildren at MacCarthy Square, Bathurst, 29th January, 1957.



Piling heavy mineral concentrate by bulldozer at the Gambia Minerals, Ltd. site at Brufut.



Children at play at Malfa School, Bathurst.



Rice cultivation at Jenoi.



Ox-ploughing near Jenoi.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

Bathurst

The town of Bathurst, now comprising some twenty thousand inhabitants, has developed on its present site during more than one hundred years. Observers commend the far-sighted action of the original planners in creating broad streets on a regular plan which has facilitated the extensive programme of road construction and drainage installation undertaken in recent years. The streets of the oldest part of the town radiate from MacCarthy Square, an open space of some six acres maintained by the Bathurst Town Council, which is used as a playing field and forum for public functions. Other open spaces include the King George V playing field and the Box Bar Stadium at the southern and north-western extremities.

Some overcrowding exists, particularly in the southern and western parts. The problem is created by the nature of St. Mary's Island on which Bathurst is built. Over three-fourths of the island is swampland and it follows that the population, which has doubled in the past thirty years, has a very limited area at its disposal. Expansion is only possible by reclamation of swampland and it was not possible for the Government to contemplate such expansive works until Colonial Development and Welfare funds became available. In 1950 an area of approximately one and a half square miles of swampland was bunded; of this, one-third is used as a ponding area for drainage of the town during the rainy season, but the greater part awaits further reclamation for residential purposes.

A fully reclaimed area known as Crab Island, on the west side of the town, is now ready to be built upon and a plan has been approved for its development. It is over sixteen acres in extent and on it a school designed to accommodate 480 pupils is being built. In addition, the layout provides for five streets, eight open spaces and some fifty-eight building plots. A Colonial Development and Welfare grant of £17,500 has been secured for the implementation of this plan. Building plots in the new area will be allotted in accordance with a points system devised to ensure that, so far as possible, preference is given to those whose need is greatest.

Building Materials

In Bathurst, the traditional building materials are "krinting"—plaited bamboo strips—and rhun palm scantlings. From the mature rhun, which is termite resistant, a rectangular frame is constructed and rigid mats of plaited bamboo affixed which, when plastered and washed over with "lasso," a lime manufactured locally from burnt and pulverised oyster and cockle shells, forms a presentable and hygienic structure. Split rhuns and corrugated iron sheets are used for roofing as the current building regulations prohibit the use of inflammable material in the town.

In the Protectorate, buildings are generally constructed from mud

blocks, krinting and plaster or woven grass, with corrugated iron or thatched roofs, the latter of conical or pyramidal form, supported on frames of rhun or mangrove poles.

In both town and country substantial European style houses are erected when funds permit the owner to do so. These are usually single storeyed, raised two to four feet above ground level on rafts of mud plastered with cement. Cement block walls and corrugated iron roofs are popular.

Housing Loans Scheme

A Housing Loans Scheme has been operated for the benefit of civil servants for over nine years. Loans repayable over a period of years may be made for the purchase or erection of buildings against mortgage of the property.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Social Welfare in the Gambia is undertaken both by the Government and private agencies. A Social Welfare Officer appointed in 1946 is mainly responsible for probation work in connection with juvenile delinquency, the promotion of youth activities and the encouragement of voluntary effort. Most of his activities are performed in the urban areas.

A Juvenile Court sits in private at either the Magistrate's Court or Chambers in Bathurst or in the Kombo St. Mary Division. In 1956, 23 cases involving 29 delinquents were dealt with and in 1957, 25 cases involving 35 delinquents. Their ages varied from 10 to 16 years and in the majority of cases the delinquents were charged with stealing. The main causes of juvenile delinquency are the lack of parental control and poor economic home conditions. Parents have been seeking the advice of the Social Welfare Officer and the result so far has been satisfactory.

A central Council of Youth Clubs, which includes the Girl Guides' and Boy Scouts' Associations, administers a centre known as the King George VI Memorial Hall. This has a full-time warden and the Social Welfare Officer acts as honorary secretary. His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, visited the Memorial Hall in January, 1957. During the year Gambian contingents attended the Scout Jubilee Jamboree at Sutton Coldfield and the Girl Guides' World Camp at Windsor.

Social, cultural and recreational facilities are available at the British Council Centre. Social welfare activities are carried out by the religious bodies and by institutions such as the Alex Patterson League which helps to resettle discharged prisoners, the Gambia Branch of the British Legion, and the Gambia Branch of the British Red Cross Society.

A total of £250 was made available from official funds for the relief of destitutes and a further £50 for payment to fosterparents

for the maintenance of juvenile delinquents and children in need of care and protection. The Government maintains a Home for the Infirm, there is a leper centre in the Protectorate and an attempt is being made by voluntary effort to start a Society for the Blind. Mr. John F. Wilson, Director of the British Empire Society for the Blind, visited the Gambia in October, 1956, and focussed attention on this aspect of welfare.

There are pension schemes for retired civil servants, an army pension scheme for ex-servicemen and various superannuation schemes for employees of local business houses.

Mr. W. H. Chinn, Social Welfare Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, visited the Colony in 1956.

Chapter 8 : Legislation

DURING 1956 and 1957, 41 Ordinances were enacted. The following deserve special mention:

1956

The Purchase Tax Ordinance (*No.* 17 *of* 1956) enabled the imposition of and provided for the collection of purchase tax on all goods imported into and entered for use in the Gambia with the exception of certain essential foodstuffs, the legislation of 1953 under which this tax was previously imposed having lapsed. The tax at 2 per cent of value was increased in 1957 to 3 per cent.

The Income Tax (*Amendment*) *Ordinance* (*No.* 18 *of* 1956) amended Income Tax Legislation by raising the maximum deduction that may be made from income in respect of the education of children outside the Gambia from £600 to £750.

1957

The Legislative Council (*Powers and Privileges*) *Ordinance* (*No.* 3 *of* 1957) defined the powers, privileges and immunities of members of the Legislative Council and made provision for the better conduct of the proceedings of the Council. The legislation is similar to that in force elsewhere in West Africa.

The Legislative Council (*Witnesses Oaths*) *Ordinance* (*No.* 4 *of* 1957) enabled select committees of the Legislative Council to administer oaths to witnesses examined by any such committee and contains a provision which will permit a person to affirm who has no religious belief or whose religious belief does not permit him to take the oath.

The Law of England (*Application*) (*Amendment*) *Ordinance* (*No.* 11 *of* 1957) amended previous legislation on this subject, and made provision (*inter alia*) for the abolition of the doctrine of common employment, and for the substitution of orders of mandamus, prohibition and certiorari in lieu of the prerogative writs.

The Crown Proceedings Ordinance (*No.* 12 *of* 1957) amended the law relating to the civil liabilities and rights of the Crown and to civil proceedings by and against the Crown. It also amended the law relating to the civil liabilities of persons other than the Crown in certain cases involving the affairs or property of the Crown and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid.

The Royal West African Frontier Force (*Amendment*) *Ordinance* (*No.* 15 *of* 1957) amended previous legislation on this subject in order to bring it into line with the United Kingdom Army Act of 1955, the pattern of which is in force in other West African Territories.

The Audit Ordinance (*No.* 16 *of* 1957) defined and gave statutory confirmation of the status, powers and duties of the Principal Auditor so as to ensure that he will not be hampered in his task of keeping a check on the collection and expenditure of public monies.

The Pensions (*Increase*) *Ordinance* (*No.* 19 *of* 1957) provided for the increase of certain pensions payable in respect of public services.

Chapter 9 : Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

A description of the legal and judicial systems of the Gambia must distinguish between the Colony System and the Protectorate System.

The Legal System of the Colony

The legal system in the Colony is founded upon English common law, the doctrines of equity, and the statutes of general application which were in force in England on the 1st November, 1888. It includes Colony Ordinances and subsidiary legislative instruments enacted locally. It includes also a Mohammedan Law Recognition Ordinance under which a Mohammedan Court constituted by a Cadi exercises jurisdiction in causes and matters between, or exclusively affecting, Mohammedan natives of West Africa relating to civil status, marriage, succession, donations, testaments and guardianship under forms of procedure and practices according to the rules of Mohammedan law.

The criminal law and procedure are codified in Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure Codes administered by the Colony Courts other than the Mohammedan Court, which has no criminal or quasi-criminal jurisdiction.

All summary conviction offences are heard and determined by the Colonial Magistrate, or, in his absence, by two or more lay Justices of the Peace, who have power also to receive and inquire into all charges of offences punishable on information before the Supreme Court of the Colony. Any person charged with a grave offence such as treason, murder, manslaughter, rape or robbery with violence, must be committed for trial before the Supreme Court, and any adult person charged with an offence punishable by imprisonment for more than three years and triable as a summary conviction offence, may be tried summarily only with his recorded consent. Furthermore, the magistrates or justices have no jurisdiction to deal summarily with any offence charged before them where the prosecution is being carried on by the Attorney-General, except with the consent of the Attorney-General.

The civil law of the Colony is, briefly, the English civil law. It is administered by the Supreme Court, by the Court of Requests, and by the Kombo St. Mary Magistrates Court presided over by the Colonial Magistrate or two or more Justices of the Peace. The latter two courts have jurisdiction in the Colony in all pleas of personal actions (which includes civil proceedings by or against the Crown) where the debt or damage claimed is not more than £50 and in actions of ejectment or of title to corporeal or incorporeal hereditaments where the value thereof does not exceed £50. They have no jurisdiction in actions for malicious prosecutions, libel, slander, criminal conspiracy, seduction, or breach of promise of marriage.

Minors may sue for wages in these Courts as if they were persons of full age. These Courts provide for easy and speedy determination of matters in a summary manner. Any party aggrieved by a decision has a right of appeal to the Supreme Court.

The civil jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is, of course, unlimited. It includes probate, matrimonial and divorce jurisdiction, and the Court has appellate jurisdiction to hear appeals from the Court of Requests, the Kombo St. Mary Magistrates' Court and the Mohammedan Court already referred to.

The law of evidence in the Colony, and in British Courts in the Protectorate, may be described shortly as the English Law of evidence.

With some minor restrictions relating to the value of civil suits and to convictions on a plea of "Guilty" in criminal cases, a right of appeal to the Supreme Court lies from all decisions of subordinate courts and decisions of the Mohammedan Court, and a right of appeal lies to the West African Court of Appeal from all decisions of the Supreme Court in its original jurisdiction and from decisions

of the Supreme Court on a matter of law in its appellate criminal jurisdiction.

The Supreme Court exercises powers of review and revision over all criminal proceedings decided by or brought before subordinate courts. The complete list of all such proceedings required by law to be forwarded to the Chief Justice for scrutiny at the end of every month, or as the Chief Justice may direct, brings the review and revision procedure into effect automatically.

The Judicial System of the Colony

The judicial system of the Colony comprises, first, the Supreme Court of the Colony consisting of and held by a Chief Justice appointed by the Governor by Letters Patent under the Public Seal in accordance with instructions received from Her Majesty. The Governor has power to appoint a person to act as Chief Justice when the office is vacant, and can also appoint a Deputy Chief Justice whenever circumstances require a deputy to represent the Chief Justice.

The Supreme Court is a superior Court of Record and possesses the same jurisdiction as Her Majesty's High Court of Justice in England. The Supreme Court has all the powers and authority of the Lord High Chancellor of England. There are attached to the Supreme Court a Sheriff of the Colony, a Clerk of Courts and interpreters. The Registrar is the Taxing Master.

All criminal trials in the Supreme Court are held normally before the Chief Justice with a jury of 12 men. In any case where an offence is punishable by death, seven of the jurors must be special jurors. In other offences the Chief Justice may, in his discretion, direct that all or some of the jurors shall be special jurors. Special jurors, who are selected by the Justices of the Peace, are persons selected on account of their education, and judgment, or who are otherwise specially qualified.

Every male person in the Colony between 21 and 60 years of age with understanding of the English language who is a member of a learned or liberal profession, or has a £7 property valuation, or is a rent payer of £10 per annum, or is in receipt of salary or commission of £50 yearly value, and is not under disability or disqualified from serving or exempted, is qualified and liable for jury service.

Any person charged with an offence other than a capital offence may elect to be tried by the Court with the aid of assessors instead of being tried by a Judge and jury. The Attorney-General may require the Court, where any person is charged with a non-capital offence, to try a case with the aid of assessors instead of by a Judge and jury where he is of the opinion that a more fair and impartial trial can be obtained for the person charged by such method. Assessors, who must number not less than three, are selected by the Chief Justice from among the Justices of the Peace and special

jurors. On the conclusion of the evidence and summing-up the assessors express their opinions orally, and these are recorded by the Chief Justice. The decision of the case is, however, vested exclusively in the Chief Justice.

Civil causes in the Supreme Court are triable by the Chief Justice without a jury and the Chief Justice's decision is taken, deemed to be, and is recorded as the judgment of the Court. Civil suits are commenced by writ of summons, accompanied by particulars of claim in proper cases, and are ordinarily heard and determined in a summary manner without pleadings, but pleadings may be ordered when the nature and circumstances of the case appear to render them expedient.

The Rules of the Supreme Court, which are similar in many matters to the English Rules of the Supreme Court, are made by the Chief Justice and require approval by the Legislative Council. They are applied to all matters and proceedings, civil and criminal, to which they extend.

Subordinate Courts in the Colony

The other courts of the Colony are the Bathurst Magistrate's Court, the Court of Requests of the Colony and the Magistrate's Court of Kombo St. Mary. These courts are normally constituted and presided over by the Colonial Magistrate or, in his absence, by two or more Justices of the Peace. There is also the Mohammedan Court already referred to, which is constituted and presided over by the Cadi of that Court or by the Cadi and two assessors whenever in the opinion of the Governor the Cadi is not a man of "uncontested ability." In the absence of a Cadi the Mohammedan Court is presided over, or constituted, by two or more assessors. Mohemmedan Court assessors are Justices of the Peace of the Colony of the Mohammedan faith.

The criminal and civil jurisdiction of the Bathurst Magistrate's Court and the Kombo St. Mary Magistrate's Court is the same for both. As already explained, they are courts of summary jurisdiction, under the supervision of the Supreme Court, to which appeals lie also.

The law relating to the treatment of young offenders and for the establishment of juvenile courts is contained in the Children and Young Persons Ordinance, 1949. The Court is constituted by a Magistrate (sitting with such other person or persons as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall appoint) or by two Justices of the Peace. The Ordinance contains the usual provisions for the treatment of persons brought before the court and restricts the punishment which it may impose.

The Protectorate Legal and Judicial Systems

The Protectorate legal and judicial systems may conveniently be explained together.

The Protectorate system comprises the High Court of the Protectorate constituted by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Colony and having in respect of matters occurring in the Protectorate the same jurisdiction, civil and criminal, as the Supreme Court has in respect of matters occurring in the Colony.It comprises also British Subordinate Protectorate Courts and graded District Tribunals.

Generally stated, the system of law in force in the Protectorate is, as far as is consistent with the Protectorate system, the law and custom for the time being in force in the Colony, together with reasonable native law and custom which is not repugnant to justice, or incompatible with the principles of the law of England, or of any law or Ordinance of the Colony applying to the Protectorate. British Courts in the Protectorate administer English law, Colony law, and Ordinances applying to the Protectorate. District Tribunals administer native law and custom prevailing in the area of the jurisdiction of the tribunal, and Mohammedan law relating to civil status, marriage, succession, divorce, dowry, the rights and authorities of parents and guardianship where the parties are Mohammedans. They also administer District Authorities and Commissioner's Rules and Orders, and the provisions of Ordinances and subsidiary legislative instruments which are subject to the jurisdiction of a subordinate court of the second class, that is, a British subordinate court.

In the High Court, all matters, civil and criminal, are tried without a jury, but the Chief Justice may employ assessors for advisory purposes only in any civil or criminal case. He may relax the Rules of Court where expedient for facilitating or expediting the administration of justice and where not prejudicial to an accused person making his defence.

The High Court has the same appellate jurisdiction in regard to subordinate courts in the Protectorate in civil and criminal matters, and exercises the same powers of review and revision over such courts as the Supreme Court possesses and exercises in regard to subordinate courts in the Colony. The Rules of the Supreme Court of the Colony apply, subject to the powers of relaxation, to the High Court.

The subordinate courts of the Protectorate are constituted by the Commissioners of the Protectorate as *ex officio* magistrates of the first and second class. Their powers of punishment for criminal offences in the case of first class magistrates are the same as those of the Colonial Magistrate, who is also a first class magistrate in every division of the Protectorate in which he may be required to sit from time to time. The civil jurisdiction of subordinate courts of the Protectorate is limited to £100 suit value.The jurisdiction of such courts in civil and criminal matters is concurrent with the jurisdiction of the District Tribunals.

There are two grades of District Tribunal, namely Group Tribu-

nals and Single District Tribunals. Group Tribunals have jurisdiction in civil actions up to £100 suit value and Single District Tribunals up to £50.

Both types of Tribunal have full jurisdiction in cases concerning land, matrimonial causes (except marriages contracted under the Christian or Civil Marriage Ordinances), causes relating to inheritance, testamentary dispositions and administration of estates, and offences against native law and custom. They can enforce certain rules and orders mentioned in the District Tribunals Ordinance and also the provisions of certain Ordinances. They can also exercise any jurisdiction conferred by order made under the District Tribunals Ordinance. No Tribunal may hear any cause concerning an offence against native law and custom where the offence alleged is also an offence against an Ordinance which the Tribunal has jurisdiction to enforce. Proceedings are commenced by complaint, information or application either to the Tribunal when it is in session, or to the President of the Tribunal when it is not in session. Records of cases are kept and preserved.

Tribunals have jurisdiction over any member of an African race, but the Governor has power to direct that any such person or class of persons shall not be subject to Tribunals except with their consent. Members of the Armed Forces, the Police Force, Government servants, members of the Legislative Council, Justices of the Peace and members of the Bathurst Town Council are so exempted.

In addition to the forms of punishment permitted to Tribunals under the Criminal Code they have power to inflict any punishment authorised by native law and custom which is not repugnant to natural justice and humanity. Subject to any prescribed Rules, the practice and procedure of the Tribunals is regulated in accordance with native law and custom. Every Tribunal is required by law to report all cases tried by it to the Commissioner of the Division in which the Tribunal has jurisdiction. Sentences of corporal punishment on juveniles under 16 years of age are subject to confirmation by the Commissioner and by the High Court. A Tribunal may not pass sentence of corporal punishment on persons of 16 years of age or over. The complete lists of all Tribunal criminal cases are forwarded to the Chief Justice of the High Court monthly, or at such intervals as the Chief Justice may direct, by the Commissioners and such lists operate as appeals so as to bring into operation the review and revisional powers of the Chief Justice on behalf of every convicted person.

The Tribunals are under the immediate supervision of the Commissioners, who have access to them and to their records at all times. The Commissioners exercise wide revisional powers including power to direct a re-trial before the same or another Tribunal and to transfer any cause to a subordinate court for disposal. Cases both civil and criminal may be removed to a subordinate court from a Tribunal by the Commissioner upon the report of a defendant.

No legal practitioner may appear or act for any party before a District Tribunal.

General

The main types of civil and criminal cases before the Courts in the Gambia can be stated only very briefly. The majority of civil cases are civil debt cases. The great majority of criminal cases are offences against property. The territory is happily free of serious crimes of violence.

Statistics of civil and criminal cases are given at Appendix V.

POLICE

The Gambia Police Force is distributed throughout the Colony and Protectorate and has its headquarters in Bathurst. For administrative purposes the territory is divided into two Police Divisions—the Colony Division comprising six Police Stations and two Police Posts, and the Protectorate Division, comprising three Police Stations and five Police Posts.

The Force is commanded by a Commissioner. The establishment of the Force is : one Commissioner; two Superintendents; one Deputy Superintendent; three Assistant Superintendents; two Chief Inspectors; one Bandmaster (holding the rank of Chief Inspector); 15 Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors; 24 Sergeants and 240 other ranks.

The distribution of the establishment is:

Police Headquarters	.	124 of all ranks including the Police Band of 31 musicians.
Colony Division	.	129 of all ranks.
Protectorate Division	.	54 of all ranks.

Of the gazetted officers, two are Africans who were promoted from the Inspectorate during 1954. The personnel of other ranks, including that of Chief Inspector, are all Africans and are recruited mainly from the indigenous tribes in the Gambia, viz: Wollof, Mandingo, Fula Jola, Sarakuleh, and Akus of the Coastal region. A small proportion come from Sierra Leone and Nigeria. Ninety per cent are Mohammedan. Five of the Inspectorate have received training at the Metropolitan Police Training School in England and one Sergeant has attended a course on fingerprints and photography with the West Riding Constabulary at Wakefield.

The general duties of the Police are the preservation of law and order, the protection of property, the prevention and detection of crime, the regulation of road traffic, and the due enforcement of the laws and statutory regulations with which they are directly charged. Immigration control, issuing of passports and travel documents, registration and licensing of firearms and motor vehicles, licensing

of motor drivers and enforcement of the weights and measures laws, fall among the latter.

Some 80 per cent of the African personnel are literate although the standard of literacy is, in many cases, elementary. The training of recruit Constables and courses for the Efficiency Bar Examination for N.C.Os and men are carried out in the Police Training School at headquarters.The school is staffed by two Sub-Inspectors, one Sergeant and one Corporal.

The Criminal Investigation Department is equipped with modern photographic appliances, and at the end of 1957 there were 8,099 classified sets of fingerprints filed.

Crime throughout the territory is not serious but stealing is very prevalent. The following tables give details:

OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON

Year	*Murder*	*Attd. Murder*	*Man-slaughter*	*Grievous bodily harm and Woun-ding*	*Assault*	*Rape*
1954 . . .	7	1	1	39	53	5
1955 . . .	2	—	6	36	74	8
1956 . . .	—	—	2	25	42	—
1957 . . .	2	—	3	39	34	8

OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY

Year	*Burglary, House Breaking, Shop & Store Breaking*	*Arson*	*Fraud and False pretences*	*Receiving*	*Larceny*
1954 .	186	1	50	11	458
1955 .	134	3	15	13	380
1956 .	94	5	12	8	365
1957 .	169	—	25	14	348

TOTAL CRIMINAL CASES DEALT WITH BY THE POLICE

Year	*No. Reported*	*Persons taken to Court*	*Persons Convicted*	*Cases under investigation*
1954 .	882	430	322(15)	18
1955 .	979	457	341(11)	2
1956 .	658	330	261(14)	5
1957 .	714	443	325(36)	15

Note: figures in brackets denote juveniles.

The Harbour Police branch, which is responsible for policing the waterfront and patrolling the coast near Bathurst, the river mouth and the adjoining creeks, has proved itself a valuable adjunct to the

Force. The branch is equipped with a launch and a dinghy fitted with an outboard machine. The launches, which are manned by crews drawn from the regular Police and civilians transferred from the Marine Department, have aided a number of small craft in distress, and have been instrumental in saving several lives.

The Bathurst Fire Brigade

The Commissioner of Police is the Chief Fire Officer for Bathurst. The Fire Brigade is established under the Fire Brigade Ordinance, 1948, and is entirely separate from the Police Force. The present establishment is one Fire Officer and 16 full-time Firemen. There is one Fire Station. Appliances and up-to-date equipment include one hose-laying lorry, one water tender with hose reel, four large and two small trailer pumps, 12,000 ft. of hose, one 35-ft. extension ladder and one hook ladder.

Yundum Airport Fire Brigade

The Commissioner of Police has recently taken over the Airport Rescue Brigade at the aerodrome about 15 miles away from Bathurst. The present establishment of the Yundum Fire Brigade is one Leading Fireman and seven full-time men. Appliances for this Brigade include one Richard Miles Crash Tender mounted with a 500 gallon tank, with 4 CO_2 cylinders incorporated; one light rescue vehicle (Land Rover) carrying cutting equipment, etc.; and one Dennis water tender with a Coventry pump.

PRISONS

Penal administration in the Gambia is the function of a separate department with the Superintendent of Prisons at its head. He is assisted by a Deputy Assistant Superintendent and subordinate staff consisting of two Chief Officers, two Principal Officers, 34 prison officers of junior grades and one Matron.

There are three penal establishments in the territory, of which the Central Prison, where departmental headquarters is also situated, lies two miles from Bathurst and houses recidivists and second offenders. A new association cell block was built at the Central Prison during the period under review to house first offenders only, thus making segregation more rigorous. The second prison is at Georgetown, headquarters of the MacCarthy Island Division of the Protectorate Administration, and about 180 miles from Bathurst. Recent alterations have improved the security and accommodation at this small establishment. At Jeswang, on the site of the former aerodrome, nine miles from Bathurst, is a Prison Camp which was opened in 1953. At present a maximum of 36 first and second offenders can be housed there in association cell blocks.

The figures below show the number of prisoners received during the years under review:

	1956	1957
Convictions .	258	225
Remands . .	136	104

The daily average of prisoners during the past four years has been:

1954	1955	1956	1957
123.14	104.5	115.61	101.60

For the most part, the general health of the prisoners continued to be good except for an outbreak of influenza during the latter part of 1957 when a mild epidemic swept Bathurst. Minor infections are treated at the infirmary at the Central Prison while more serious cases are transferred to the Victoria Hospital in Bathurst or to that at Bansang, near Georgetown. All prisoners are medically examined on reception and the Prison Medical Officer, though not resident, is in daily attendance and available at all times in case of emergency.

Necessary building work is for the most part undertaken by prisoners under the supervision of Prisons Officer Instructors. Prisoners are also engaged in tailoring, boot repairing and carpentry. Certain classes of prisoners work outside the walls in the vegetable gardens on crops for prison consumption. A scheme is in operation which permits prisoners to earn, by good conduct and industry, money for personal expenditure.

Chapter 10 : Public Utilities and Public Works

THE Public Works Department, the largest of the Government's Departments, performs the normal functions of constructing and maintaining Government buildings and other public works including the water supply undertakings for Bathurst, Kombo St. Mary and the Protectorate, Government river wharves, and major roads.

The Department is also responsible for the control of Civil Aviation, and the Airport and Meteorological Services.

ELECTRICITY

The Bathurst Power House, the only major installation in the territory, is situated at Half Die. Three generating sets are in use, the third set having been commissioned in March, 1957. The sets comprise turbo pressure charged diesels driving 750 k.w., 11,000 volt, 3 phase generators. Sea water is used for engine cooling.

Power transmission within Bathurst is at 11,000 volts by underground cable forming a ring-main system. Transmission to rural areas is by 11,000 volt over-head line.

Low tension distribution is by overhead line at 400 volts, 3 phase and neutral. Considerable extensions to the low tension distribution were carried out in 1956-1957.

It is planned to extend the high tension overhead line further into the rural areas and to arrange domestic supplies to several big villages in the Kombo St. Mary.

Statistics

1956	
Units generated	3,167,550
Number of Consumers	1,646
Maximum Load recorded	750 k.w.
1957	
Units generated (estimate)	3,570,000
Number of Consumers	1,738
Maximum Load recorded	810 k.w.

Tariffs

Domestic Power 3*d*. per unit.
Domestic Lighting 9*d*. per unit.
Industrial (3 Phase Power) 6*d*. per unit.
Small generating units are being maintained in Brikama, Mansa-Konko, Georgetown and Bansang.

BUILDINGS

In addition to expenditure on maintenance, £72,500 was spent on new building work in 1956 and £76,500 in 1957, including military buildings. The majority of this was taken up in comparatively small buildings for various services throughout the territory. The major works were:

Two Senior Service Quarters in Bathurst.
A Customs Shed for passenger services.
An Infirmary at the Prison.
Children's Ward at Victoria Hospital.
Completion of a Secondary Modern and a Primary School at Bathurst.
An extension to the Technical School to provide facilities for training in motor fitting.
A Police Station and quarters at Georgetown.
Junior Service Quarters at Basse and Georgetown.

Works still in progress at the end of 1957 were:

Three Senior Service Quarters at Basse, Georgetown and Mansa-Konko.
A Health Centre at Brikama.
A Police Training Centre at Yundum.
Junior Service Quarters at Basse, Georgetown, and Cape St. Mary.
Quarters and garage for the Airport Fire Crew.

Various improvements and additions to existing Government buildings totalled £10,000 in 1956 and £4,000 in 1957.

WATERWORKS

Bathurst and the Fajara area are supplied with chlorinated water from Abuko Stream pumped to a reservoir at Fajara whence it gravitates.

It has been decided that this system shall be modernised and transferred to borehole sources at the cost of about £90,000. Work on this project has already commenced and by the end of 1957 a 200,000 gallon overhead tank was under erection in Bathurst and a mile of new main laid. The new scheme will also incorporate modern treatment plant.

Small supplies are provided at Brikama, Bansang, Mansa-Konko, Yoroberikunda, Massembe, Yundum and Georgetown. Supplies at the last two places are being improved and extended and by the end of 1957 a borehole had been sunk at each site and main-laying had commenced at Yundum.

Village wells equipped with hand pumps are being built throughout the territory, under the supervision of the Village Water Supplies Superintendent, and some 120 of these were in operation at the end of 1957.

Water is generally available at reasonable depths throughout the Gambia.

WHARVES

During 1957 Admiralty Wharf was extended to facilitate the berthing of ilmenite ore-carrying ships.

A programme of gradual reconstruction of all the timber wharves at river ports numbering some 25—30 (depending on how many sites are eventually retained as communication links) has been commenced and at the end of 1957 four had been completed and three were in progress.

GENERAL

Coast erosion has been a problem in the Bathurst and Cape St. Mary area for as far back as records go and during 1957 a firm of consulting engineers was retained to advise on the matter and remedial defence works put in hand. It is expected that these will continue for some years.

The recently reclaimed land at Crab Island was laid out with roads, services and building plots during 1956 and 1957.

Chapter 11 : Communications

SHIPPING

Harbour Facilities

The Port of Bathurst is controlled by the Director of Marine who is also *ex officio* chairman of the Navigation and Pilotage Board. The Board is responsible for supervising all matters connected with the navigation of the local waters, the making of bye-laws and the port, wharf and light dues to be levied.

Pilotage is compulsory within local waters, from a distance of five miles outside the port limits. This service, which was instituted early in 1955, undertakes the pilotage, berthing and unberthing of vessels at any hour.

Government Wharf is the main wharf in the Port. It has a berthing face of 290 feet with a minimum depth alongside of 28 feet at L.W.O.S.T. Mail steamers berth here.

Admiralty Wharf at the southern end of the waterfront has been extended to provide a berth to accommodate vessels of 500 feet in length with a minimum depth alongside of 27 feet at L.W.O.S.T. A fixed boom loader is sited on this wharf to enable ocean-going vessels to load ilmenite by bulk conveyor. The wharf is also designed to accommodate oil tankers and pipe lines are laid for this purpose. Dry cargo vessels also use this wharf. Fresh water is obtainable at both the above wharves.

Navigational aids, comprising a lighted, buoyed and beaconed channel, extend from 26 miles to seaward as far as the entrance to Mandori Creek up the Gambia River, a total distance of 72 miles. A light is also maintained at Bijol Island off the Atlantic Coast. These lights and other aids are maintained by the Marine Department.

Overseas Ships

The total tonnage of overseas merchant shipping which entered and cleared the Port of Bathurst in 1956 was 866,425 net registered tons and in 1957 was 804,945 tons. H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, embarked in H.M.Y. *Britannia* and escorted by H.M.S. *Pelican* arrived in the port on the 29th January, 1957. H.M.Y. *Britannia* proceeded up river on the 30th January to Sankwia, a distance of 85 miles, anchored there overnight, returned down river on the 31st and finally departed from the Port that night.

Visits to the Gambia were paid by H.M.S. *Mounts Bay* in February, 1957, and H.M.S. *Bigbury Bay* in December, 1957.

River Passenger and Freight Services

A weekly passenger and freight service is scheduled to be maintained by H.M.C.S. *Lady Wright* and H.M.C.S. *Fulladu*, sailing alternately. The former vessel, built in the United Kingdom in 1951, is a twin screw motor vessel of 532 tons with aluminium upper works

to reduce draft and was designed specifically for service in the River Gambia. This vessel provides comfortable cabin accommodation and accomplishes the round trip Bathurst—Basse—Bathurst in under five days. H.M.C.S. *Fulladu* was built in 1941 for the English coastal trade and purchased by the Government in 1950. She is a single screw vessel of 303 tons with second class cabin passenger accommodation. During this two-year period, 34,626 passengers and 7,028 tons of cargo were transported. A postal service is maintained aboard each vessel and in addition *Lady Wright* provides a wireless telegraphic service.

Ferry services for passengers and vehicles are operated by the Marine Department at eight points on the River Gambia and also across two major creeks. A new vehicular and passenger ferry built in the United Kingdom in 1956 began to operate a regular passenger service on the Bathurst—Barra crossing towards the end of 1957.

Two new vehicular and passenger ferries were built in the United Kingdom in 1957 for service at the Trans-Gambia ferry point at Balingho. One was put into service at Balingho in 1957: the other is expected to arrive in the Gambia early in 1958.

The Governor's Yacht *Mansa Kila Kuta* is maintained and manned by the Marine Department, which is also responsible for operating and maintaining the Government fleet of launches.

Dockyard Services

Dockyard services include a 500-ton slipway, a machine shop and a plating shop capable of undertaking repairs on vessels of considerable size and a boat-building and joinery section which in 1955 built a cattle vessel of 125 tons and in 1956 several launches of up to 35 feet.

ROADS

There are 42 miles of bituminous road in the vicinity of Bathurst, 185 miles of laterite surface roads and approximately 634 miles of earth tracks in the Protectorate. The earth tracks are open to motor traffic during the dry season from December to July only, with the exception of international routes, viz: Dakar to Ziguinchor via Bathurst and Basse to Welingara, which are open throughout the year.

In the Colony area, in addition to maintenance work, the reconstruction and surfacing of the streets in Bathurst is being undertaken at the cost of Colonial Development and Welfare funds. It is expected that this work will be completed in 1959. A regular programme of reconstruction and extension of bituminous roads near Bathurst has also been carried out at the rate of between one and two miles per year.

Minor reconstruction of the Class II gravel surface roads in the Protectorate has also progressed at the rate of two to four miles per year. The main work during 1956 and 1957 was on

the Basse Fattoto road which is important as a feeder during the dry season when river steamers cannot operate beyond Basse. Plans have been laid to increase the rate and scope of this reconstruction and it is intended that a more extensive programme will commence during 1958.

An important work carried out during 1956 and 1957 was the construction of a north-south all-weather road linking Senegal and Casamance and crossing the river at Yellitenda. The road itself has been built by the French Government, but it will be maintained by the Gambia Government who are also providing the ferry arrangements and the quarters required for police, customs, ferry and other operating personnel. This building programme, valued at £90,000, was about half completed at the end of 1957 and is in addition to that referred to in Chapter 10. Improvement to the road connecting this scheme to Bathurst, which will begin in 1958, will provide a most useful link.

The following vehicles were licensed:

	1956	1957
Motor Cycles . .	229	212
Motor Cars . .	491	527
Commercial Vehicles	845	719

CIVIL AVIATION

The Director of Public Works is the Controller of Civil Aviation. His Department maintains the only aerodrome, at Yundum, some seventeen miles from Bathurst. This continues to be operated by Messrs. International Aeradio Limited, under contract with the Government.

Meteorological services are integrated with the West African Meteorological Service.

West African Airways Corporation operated during the period under review a regular twice-weekly service on the route Lagos—Accra—Freetown—Bathurst—Dakar.

Messrs. Hunting-Clan Limited and Messrs. Airwork Limited operated a coach class service on the route London—Tangier—Bathurst—Freetown—Accra on a once-weekly schedule in each direction. In 1958 this will become the Viscount Safari Tourist service.

Aircraft movements show a steady increase and in 1956 were 937 and in 1957, 1,139.

There are facilities for flying boats at Bathurst, but no use has been made of them for several years.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The automatic telephone system brought into service in 1952 has exchanges at Bathurst, Cape St. Mary and Yundum, and there is a trunk telephone network linking Bathurst with Kaolack to the north and Zinguinchor to the south.

There are five Government wireless stations operating on the frequency 3809 kilocycles per second, situated at:

	Call Sign
Bathurst	*VSH*
Mansa-Konko	*VSH2*
Kuntaur	*ZCA*
Georgetown	*VSW*
Basse	*VSX*

POSTS

There are six post offices in the Gambia, the head office being at Bathurst and the others at Brikama, Mansa-Konko, Kuntaur, Georgetown, and Basse. Postal agencies operate at Cape St. Mary, Serekunda, Gunjur, Bwiam, Jawara, Kaur, Bansang and Fatoto. Travelling post offices aboard Government river steamers provide full facilities at ports of call where no post office or agency exists. There are licensed stamp vendors at Bathurst and Basse. Airmails are conveyed north and south by the West African Airways Corporation and by Safari services operated by Messrs. Hunting-Clan and Airwork. Sea mail is conveyed by the Elder Dempster Mail boats which call at regular, if long, intervals, and occasionally by other steamers. Overland and river services operate between Bathurst and the sub-offices.

The approximate number of letters, postcards, newspapers, etc., handled in 1956—1957 was 2,603,820 including 1,090,760 airmail letters received and despatched. The number of parcels dealt with was 27,630 and collections of customs duty amounted to £21,665.

Money and Postal Order transactions are estimated as follows:

	1956—1957
Money Orders issued and paid	138,229
Revenue derived	£655
Postal Orders issued and paid	79,284
Revenue derived	£1,008
Total Revenue	£44,337
Total Expenditure	£51,348
Excess of Expenditure over Revenue	£7,011

Chapter 12 : Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

PRESS

The following newspapers are published in the Gambia:

THE GAMBIA OUTLOOK, price 6*d*., published weekly by the Senegambia Press, 4, Fitzgerald Street, Bathurst. Proprietor and Editor: E. F. Small, O.B.E., 4, Allen Street, Bathurst.

THE GAMBIA ECHO, price 6*d*., published weekly by the Gambia Echo Syndicate, 2, Russel Street, Bathurst. Editor: Lenrie Peters, Hagan Street, Bathurst.

THE GAMBIA NEWS BULLETIN, subscription 1*s*. per month or 12*s*. per annum, published daily except Sundays and Public Holidays by the Government Information Office, Bathurst.

During the war years the Government found it necessary to issue a daily newsheet giving world and local news, Government notices and B.B.C. radio programmes, etc. In the absence of a daily commercial newspaper in the Colony, the Information Office has continued to issue this newsheet, which apart from the overseas broadcasts, is the only source of day-to-day world news. It also reports some local news factually and without comment.

BROADCASTING

There is no early prospect of a broadcasting station being operated in the Gambia.

FILMS

There are two commercial cinemas in the Colony, both in Bathurst. The films they show are generally obtained from a circuit operating in adjacent French Senegal.

The Government Information Office shows films in Bathurst regularly and operates a mobile cinema in the Protectorate during the dry season.

There are also static projectors located at each of the four Divisional Headquarters in the Protectorate. The films used by the Information Office are obtained from the Central Office of Information, London, or are local newsreels in black and white or colour taken by the Information Officer.

During 1956 and 1957 some 255 filmshows were given in Bathurst and its environs. 66 shows were given in the Protectorate in 1956, covering all four Divisions, and 18 in Western Division in 1957.

Films are shown regularly at the British Council Centre in Bathurst to members of the Centre. These are usually of a documentary character, though feature films are occasionally shown.

The local Roman Catholic Mission also gives occasional shows of films of a religous nature.

There is a Cinematograph Board of Control composed of three Viewing Committees under the chairmanship of the Information Officer, and also an Appeal Committee. The Board's main function is to licence films for public exhibition, though posters and slides are also within its purview.

INFORMATION SERVICES

The Information Office (or Public Relations Office—it acts in both capacities) is attached to the Secretariat. At its head is the Informa-

tion Officer who is responsible directly to the Colonial Secretary.

In addition to filmshows, the office runs a small photographic service to supply its own needs and to illustrate articles on the Gambia and Gambian subjects.

The Office also assists the local commercial weekly newspapers with background material and supplies them with ebonoid printing blocks.

Royal Visit

Towards the end of January, 1957, His Royal Highness Prince Philip visited the Colony and Protectorate of the Gambia in the course of his world tour.

During this period the Information Office produced 171 still photographs of the visit and a film for television.

To cover His Royal Highness's visit to the Protectorate, a Government vessel was converted into a floating Press headquarters and preceded the Royal Yacht *Britannia* up the River Gambia, with the visiting Press correspondents and the Information Officer aboard.

The ship's radio was used to link up, via the station of Messrs. Cable and Wireless, with official information services in London and elsewhere, with the B.B.C. and with other West African Colonies. Some 5,414 words of Press news were transmitted from the Ship apart from official news. Spoken commentaries were sent out for the B.B.C. and the Broadcasting Services of both Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

Chapter 13 : Local Forces

THE GAMBIA REGIMENT

In 1901 a party of four officers and two non-commissioned officers seconded from British Regiments arrived in Bathurst to raise and train a unit of Company strength forming part of the Sierra Leone Battalion, Royal West African Frontier Force. During the Great War of 1914—1918, the Gambia Company saw active service in the Cameroons and East Africa.

At the outbreak of war in 1939 the Company was serving in Sierra Leone with its parent unit. In the following year it returned to Bathurst and the First Battalion, the Gambia Regiment, was formed, followed in 1941 by the formation of the Second Battalion. In 1943 the First Battalion moved to Nigeria where it became part of the Sixth Brigade of the 81st (West African) Division. The Division moved to the Far East in November, 1943, and was thereafter engaged in the Burma Campaign. The most noteworthy action in which the Battalion participated was the eight-day defence of Frontier Hill. The Second Battalion entered Burma at a later date,

taking part in the victory over the Japanese at Mychaung, and, as an independent anti-tank unit in the 82nd Division, in the liberation of Rangoon.

The First Battalion returned to the Gambia in January, 1945, followed later by the Second Battalion. After demobilisation, elements of both Battalions were reorganised to form, once more, the Gambia Company of the Sierra Leone Battalion. On the 10th February, 1950, the Company again became a separate entity and, as "A" Company, the Gambia Regiment has been the only military force in the territory. The Regiment was presented with its Colours on the 28th April, 1951, and it was, so far as is known, the only independent unit of Company strength to possess them.

In 1957, the Gambia Government was invited to reassume administrative and financial responsibility for the Regiment, of which it has been largely relieved by the Imperial Government during the war and since. It quickly became apparent that the cost of maintaining the unit at an acceptable standard of efficiency was now beyond the means of the Gambia and it was therefore decided, with deep regret, that the Regiment must be placed in suspended animation and its functions transferred to an armed wing of the Police Force. Arrangements to this end were in hand at the end of the year.

Chapter 14 : Research

THE MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL LABORATORIES

The Laboratories are maintained by finances provided jointly by the Medical Research Council of Great Britain and the British Government, under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts. The staff, comprising a resident director, five medical and scientific officers, one administrative officer, 10 ancillary expatriates, and 70 Africans, is engaged in the study of the diseases of the Gambia and its investigations are conducted in and around the coastal zone of Fajara and at the riverine field station of Keneba in the West Kiang division of the Protectorate. Whilst much research is undertaken in the field, the detailed investigation of sick individuals is made in the 40 bed research ward at Fajara.

The facilities of the laboratories are frequently made available to visiting workers who pursue their own research programmes.

Summary of Research (1956 *and* 1957)

Staff

(1) Observation of the effects of repeated malaria infections on Gambian infants and young children.

(2) Study of the efficiency and effect of long-term prophylactic administration of the anti-malarial drugs chloroquine and pyrimethamine.

(3) Assessment of the antimalarial activity of 2.5 bis (cyclohexylaminomethyl) naphthalene—1:6 diol dihydrochloride.

(4) Study of the effects of malaria on the state of health of a rural village community.

(5) Study of the effects of malaria on pregnant and lactating Gambian women.

(6) Study of the course and importance of primary malaria infection in Gambian infants.

(7) Investigation into the aetiology of the enlarged livers commonly found in the Gambia.

(8) Investigation of the bionomics of anopheline and culicine mosquitoes of the Gambia and the determination of the efficiency of the residual insecticides BHC, DDT and Dieldrin in mosquito control.

(9) Investigation of the bionomics of the culicoides of the Gambia.

(10) Study of the serum proteins of Gambians by filter paper electrophoresis.

(11) Assessment of the value of diethylcarbamazine (hetrazan) in the field control of Bancroftian filariasis.

(12) Assessment of the effectiveness of 1 Bromo B napthol in the treatment of hookworm infections.

Visitors

(1) Determination with the aid of Laboratory animals of the vectors of Schistosoma haematobium in the eastern half of the Gambia as well as in small isolated focus on the sea coast.

(2) Study of the ecology and transmission period of suspected snails with a view to suggesting a method for their control.

(3) Trials of comparative activity of different piperazine salts in the treatment of Ascaris infections.

(4) Investigation of the storage life of piperazine salts.

(5) Determination of the incidence and importance of trachoma in Gambian villages.

(6) The laboratory investigation of trachomatous material from the eyes of Gambian villagers.

(7) Survey of the breeding sites and host plants of mansonioides mosquitoes.

(8) Study of the oviposition habits of mansonioides mosquitoes with special reference to the host plants and to different types of water.

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PART III

Chapter 1 : Geography and Climate

Position

The Gambia is a thin strip of territory varying from 7 to 20 miles wide on each side of the River Gambia. It extends westward about an east-west line in latitude 33° 13′ N. and lies between longtitude 13° 47′ W. and 16° 49′ W.

From the mouth of the River Gambia to the most westerly point near Koina (where the boundary is as yet undemarcated) is a distance of 300 miles by river, yet only 180 miles in a straight line.The Colony and Protectorate comprise an area of about 4,008 square miles.

The Gambia is the nearest British West African territory to Britain (2,600 miles). Its nearest British neighbour in West Africa is Sierra Leone, which is 300 miles away by sea. Of the three African territories, the Gambia is the smallest and is bounded by French West Africa, the Casamance to the south, and the Senegal to the north.

The River

The River Gambia rises in the Futa Jallon Highlands about 12 miles from Labe in French Guinea and follows a twisting course until it flows into the Atlantic Ocean at Bathurst, the capital of the Colony. Though only 175 yards wide at the eastern end of the Protectorate, it widens until it attains a width of $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles behind Bathurst and then narrows to $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles between Bathurst and Barra Point.

As the rains are monsoonal there is a marked seasonal rise in the river's upper reaches, which may reach a maximum of 30′ in the region of Basse and Fatoto. The river fluctuates in salinity with the seasons. During the height of the rains (August) the water may be fresh off Bathurst itself, but during the dry season salt water may be found a hundred miles more up river.

The sandbar across the mouth of the river where the Gambia drops its silt into the sea is always covered by at least 26 feet of water and provides no obstacle to shipping at any time. Ocean-going vessels drawing 19 feet can reach four ports in the Gambia: Bathurst, Balingho, Kaur, and Kuntaur, the last named being 150 miles from the sea.

At Koina, 300 miles from the sea, there is a tidal rise of two feet and vessels drawing not more than 6′ of water can reach the most easterly parts of the Protectorate.

Population

Bathurst, the capital, is the only town in the Gambia and has a population of some 21,000. About half this number are Wollof, some 2,500 are Aku, (de-tribalised Africans whose ancestors were liberated slaves or refugees from other areas at the time of the slave trade), some 2,000 Mandinka, some 1,400 Jola and about a thousand Fula.

Bathurst stands on the Island of St. Mary, a sand bank near the mouth of the river, and is connected with the adjacent Division of Kombo St. Mary, on the mainland, and to the west of Bathurst by a bridge.

The Island of St. Mary and Kombo St. Mary have a total area of about 30 square miles and together make up the Colony area. The population of the Kombo St. Mary is about 7,800.

The Protectorate, which comprises the whole of the Gambia other than the Colony has a total area of 3,978 square miles and a population of some 246,000.

The Mandinko are the most numerous tribe in the Protectorate, totalling about 110,000, followed by the Fula and Wollof tribes. Chapter I of Part II of this Report deals with the population of the territory.

Topography

The land surface of the Gambia may be classified into three main types:

	Per Cent
Plateau or elevated sandy plain	27
Undulating sand hills	41
River flats	24

Water makes up the remaining 8 per cent of the area.

The lower part of the river is flanked by low banks and extensive mangrove (*Rhyzophora racemosa*) swamps. As one proceeds up river these give way to grassy mud flats and, from an average height of about five feet near McCarthy Island, the banks soon attain a height of 10 feet and the height increases to nearly 40 feet at the eastern end of the Protectorate.

Apart from the mangroves and a few small fresh water swamps, the entire territory is covered by savannah, little or no trace of the strip of fringing forest which probably existed along the river edge until recent times being now discoverable.

The savannah is the good type and in the best parts, notably towards the coast, the trees attain good dimensions and the vegetation might well be described as open woodland. Such areas are, however, of no great extent.

The mangrove forest lines the bank of the river for 120 miles inland.

Land Utilisation

An estimate of land utilisation is given in Pt. II, Chapter 6, p. 25.

There are no plantations or estates, the main cash crop, groundnuts, being raised entirely by African farmers under a system of shifting cultivation. The principal crops for local consumption are rice, sorghum, millet, cassava, maize, beans and onions.

Forest produce is quite important in the Protectorate. An important source of building material is the rhun palm (*Borassus flabellifer*), which is used for bridge building, for the building of wharves and, when split, as roofing poles upon which thatch is laid.

Mangrove poles are also used in house building and for fence posts. The bamboo (*Oxtenanthera abyssinicia*) is used for making krinting (woven bamboo) fencing and house walls.

Fauna

The fauna of the Gambia is a large one but includes little big game. Hyaenas and jackals often cause trouble foraging in village burial grounds.

Dog-faced baboons, which are common throughout the Protectorate, move about in troops often numbering 100 or more, causing damage to crops. Among the edible game there are bushfowl, guinea fowl, antelope, teal, spur-winged geese and sand grouse. Hippopotami and crocodile are found in the river.

During the rains scorpions and snakes, including very poisonous species such as the puff-adder, are plentiful.

Insects include mosquitoes; *anopheles*, which carries the malarial parasite, and *aedes* which transmits yellow-fever, and tstetse flies; *glossina palpalis*, which carries the trypanosome causing sleeping sickness in man, and *glossina morsitans*, which carries the trypanosome causing sleeping sickness in animals.

Active steps are now being taken to combat the ravages of the brucid beetle (*pachymoerus cassiae*) to stored groundnuts.

Climate

Between the Sahara desert in the north and the lands of the Guinea coasts and the Belgian Congo, where abundant rains throughout the year and constant moist heat make up the equatorial climate, is a transition region, a belt stretching from the wet coastland of West Africa to the slopes of the Ethiopian Highlands.This region has rain in summer and drought in winter, the length of the rainy and dry seasons varying with the latitude. The Gambia lies within this Sudan region.

There is a characteristic regime of wind: the northerly "Harmattan" of dry continental air, warm in winter and hot in summer, which comes from the Sahara, and the "Monsoon" which is the moist oceanic south-westerly wind, an extension of the "South East Trades" of the Atlantic Ocean. The interaction of these winds with each other, and also with the upper "equatorial easterlies" produces thick low cloud and heavy rain, sometimes with violent thunder storms.

The South-West "Monsoon" brings the rain which is associated with the front between it and the "Harmattan." The wind changes in April from the "Harmattan" to the South-West "Monsoon" and the humidity rises although temperatures are not lowered.

Although a few showers of rain may fall in May, the rainy season starts in mid-June and usually ends in October, but may extend until November.

The early rains commence with violent thunderstorms, often accompanied by high winds (tornados)which usually start suddenly and last for only a short time. After this there are often one or two dry spells lasting from several days to a fortnight. After mid-July and in August and September, the rains fall frequently, mostly in heavy showers, although cloud and steady rain may persist for 24 hours or more with varying intensity. The belt in which the tornadoes occur swings north and south with the sun so that the rainy season usually finishes in October with a further series of violent thunderstorms and gales.

The Gambia lies between the 40″—60″ isohyets. The average rainfall for the whole country is 42″, although in the coastal region near Bathurst it is more than this and, in general, it declines as one goes further east into the Protectorate. The total rainfall is in fact, variable and unevenly distributed, considerable differences in total rainfall occurring in districts only a short distance apart.

Communications

Bathurst is the main port but, as the river is navigable, during the trade season ocean-going steamers known as "Groundnutters" load groundnuts at the ports of Kuntaur, Kaur and Balingho.

Messrs. Elder Dempster Agencies, Ltd. and the Messrs. Palm Lines, Ltd., operate irregular services of cargo vessels, some carrying a limited number of passengers, to and from the United Kingdom.

One of the Elder Dempster mail boats calls at Bathurst on her regular six-weekly trip between Liverpool and the British West African territories, and again on her return journey to the United Kingdom.

There are regular air-services from Yundum Airport, 15 miles from Bathurst, to the United Kingdom, Europe, Dakar and British and French West Africa.

The river provides a good means of communication with the narrow hinterland of the Protectorate and the Marine Department runs regular river-steamer services as far as Basse in the Upper River Division.

There are some 40 miles of bituminous-surfaced roads in the vicinity of Bathurst. The road systems of the Protectorate consists largely of earth tracks which are often impassable during the rains, but there are stretches of gravelled roads.

In 1956 work commenced on the Trans-Gambia road which is that section traversing the Gambia of a metalled highway connecting

the Senegal with Casamance. The road is being built under contract on behalf of the French Government and, when completed, will connect St. Louis and Dakar in the north with Ziguinchor in the south.

The road crosses the Gambia some 75 miles from Bathurst and the modern ferry boats serving the road and crossing the river between Balingho and Bambatenda will be owned and operated by the Gambia Marine Department.

There are no railways in the Gambia.

Chapter 2 : History

THE first Europeans to visit the River Gambia were Aluise de Cada Mosto, a Venetian, and Antoniotto Usi di Mare, a Genoese. They were commissioned by Prince Henry, the Navigator, of Portugal, to lead an expedition along the African coast to the South of Cape Verde. They arrived in the River Gambia in 1455, but only proceeded a short way up stream. They repeated their voyage in the following year, when they proceeded farther up the river and got in touch with some of the native chiefs. When they were near the river's mouth, "they cast anchor on a Sunday morning at an island in the shape of a smoothing iron, where one of the sailors, who had died of fever, was buried, and, as his name was Andrew, being well loved, they gave the Island the name of St. Andrew." For some three centuries afterwards the history of the European occupation of the Gambia was largely the history of this island.

This discovery was followed by attempts on the part of the Portuguese at settlement along the river banks. The number of settlers never appears at any time to have been large and such few as there were intermarried with the native African races. The European strain in their descendants rapidly diminished and, in the course of time, it became difficult to distinguish them from the indigenous races except for the fact that they styled themselves Portuguese, affected European dress and names, and professed to be Christians. Communities of Portuguese descent continued to live on the banks of the Gambia in separate villages well into the middle of the eighteenth century. Portuguese churches existed up to 1730 at San Domingo (near Albreda), Geregia (sc. Portuguese "igreja") near Kansala in Foni, and Tankular. The farthest Portuguese settlement up the river was at Setuku near Fattatenda.

In 1580 the throne of Portugal was seized by Phillip II of Spain and a number of Portuguese took refuge in England. In 1587 one of these refugees, Fransisco Ferreira, piloted two English ships to the Gambia and returned with a profitable cargo of hides and ivory. In the following year Antonia, Prior of Crato, who laid claim to the Portuguese throne, sold to certain London and Devon merchants

the exclusive right to trade between the Rivers Senegal and Gambia. This grant was confirmed to the grantees for a period of 10 years by letters patent of Queen Elizabeth. The patentees sent several vessels to the coast, but owing to Portuguese hostility did not venture further south than Joal—30 miles to the north of the mouth of the River Gambia. They reported that the Gambia was "a river of secret trade and riches, concealed by the Portugals. For long since one Frenchman entered with a small barque, which was betrayed, surprised and taken by two gallies of the Portugals." In 1612 another attempt by the French to settle in the Gambia ended disastrously owing to sickness and mortality.

Letters patent conferring (*inter alia*) all the right of exclusive trade in the River Gambia were subsequently granted in 1598, 1618 and 1632 to other adventurers, but no attempt was made by the English to explore the river until 1618. The expedition in that year was commanded by George Thompson and had for its objective the opening up of trade with Timbuktu. Leaving his ship at Gassan, Thompson proceeded with a small party in boats as far as the river Neriko. During his absence the crew of his ship were massacred by the Portuguese, but some of Thompson's party managed on their return to make their way overland to Cape Verde and thence to England. Thompson remained in the Gambia with seven companions, but was killed by one of them in a sudden quarrel. In the meantime a relief expedition had been sent out under command of Richard Jobson, who seized some Portuguese shipping as a reprisal for the massacre at Gassan. Jobson also made his way up to Neriko and subsequently gave a glowing account of the commercial potentialities of the River Gambia in his *Golden Trade*. But both his and the previous expedition had resulted in considerable losses and a subsequent voyage, which he made in 1624, proved a complete failure. In the circumstances the patentees made no further attempt to exploit the resources of the Gambia, but confined their attention to the Gold Coast.

In 1651 the Commonwealth granted a patent to certain London merchants, who in that and the following year sent two expeditions to the River Gambia and established a trading post at Bintang. Members of the expedition proceeded as far as the Barakunda Falls in search of gold, but the climate took its toll. In 1652 Prince Rupert entered the Gambia with three Royalist ships and captured the patentees' vessels. After this heavy loss the patentees abandoned further enterprise in the Gambia.

In the meantime, James, Duke of Courland, who was the godson of James I of England, had, in about 1651, obtained from various native chiefs the cession of St. Andrew's Island and land at Banyon Point (Half Die), Juffure and Gassan. Settlers, merchants and missionaries were sent out by Courland and forts were erected on St. Andrew's Island and at Banyon Point. In 1658 the Duke of Courland was made a prisoner by the Swedes during a war between Sweden

and Poland. As a consequence, funds ceased to be available for the maintenance of the garrisons and settlements in the Gambia, and in 1659 the Duke of Courland's agent at Amsterdam entered into an agreement with the Dutch West India Company whereby the Duke's possessions in the Gambia were handed over to the Company until such time as the Duke should be in a position to resume possession. In 1660, St. Andrew's Fort was captured and plundered by a French privateer in the Swedish service. The Dutch thereafter abandoned the fort and the Courlanders resumed possession.

After the Restoration, English interest in the Gambia was revived as the result of information which Prince Rupert had obtained in 1652 regarding the reputed existence of a gold mine in the upper reaches of the river. In 1660 a new patent was granted to a number of persons, who were styled the Royal Adventurers Trading to Africa and of whom the most prominent were James, Duke of York, and Prince Rupert. At the end of that year the Adventurers sent an expedition to the Gambia under the command of Major Robert Holmes who had been with Prince Rupert in the Gambia in 1652. Holmes arrived in the river at the beginning of the following year. He proceeded to occupy Dog Island, which he renamed Charles Island, and to erect a temporary fort there. On the 18th March, 1661, he sailed up to St. Andrew's Island and called upon the Courlander officer in command to surrender, threatening to bombard the fort if his request was not complied with. There were only seven Europeans in the garrison and the Courlanders had no alternative but to submit. On the following day, Holmes took possession of the fort, which he renamed James Fort after the Duke of York. An attempt was made in 1662 by the Dutch West India Company to gain possession of the fort, firstly, by inciting the natives of Barra against the English, secondly, by offering bribes to certain of the English officers, and lastly by bombarding the fort. None of these measures proved successful and the English remained in possession of the Island. In the meantime the Duke of Courland had lodged a protest against the seizure of his possessions in time of peace. On the 17th November, 1664, after protracted negotiations, he relinquished in favour of Charles II all claim to his African possessions and in return was granted the Island of Tobago and the right for himself personally to trade in the River Gambia.

In 1677 the Royal Adventurers sublet their rights between Capes Blanco and Palmas to another body of Adventurers, who came to be known as the Gambia Adventurers. These latter Adventurers enjoyed those rights until 1678, when on the expiration of their lease, they reverted to the Royal African Company, which had purchased the rights and property of the Royal Adventurers six years previously.

In 1677 the French wrested the Island of Goree from the Dutch. The history of the next century and a half is the history of a continuous struggle between England and France for political and com-

mercial supremacy in the regions of the Senegal and Gambia. By 1681 the French had acquired a small enclave at Albreda opposite James Island. Except for short periods, during which trouble with the natives of Barra or hostilities with England compelled them temporarily to abandon the place, they retained their foothold there until 1857.

In the wars with France following upon the English Revolution, James Fort was captured on four occasions by the French, namely, 1695, 1702, 1704 and 1708, but no attempt was made by them to occupy the fort permanently. At the treaty of Utrecht in 1713 the French recognised the right of the English to James Island and their settlements in the River Gambia.

One of the aftermaths of these wars was an outbreak of piracy along the West African coast. The English trade in the Gambia suffered heavily from the depredations of these pirates. In 1719 one of their number, Howel Davis, captured James Fort. An even more serious disaster occurred in 1721, when part of the garrison mutinied under the leadership of one of their officers, Captain John Massey, and seizing the Company's Ships, themselves turned pirate. Finally, in 1725, James Fort was very extensively damaged by an accidental explosion of gunpowder.

After these setbacks the African Company enjoyed 20 years of comparative prosperity. A very detailed account of the life and work of the Company's servants in the Gambia during this period is given in Francis Moore's *Travels into the Inland Parts of Africa.* Factories were established as far up the river as Fattatenda and at other places, and a fairly considerable trade was carried on with the interior of the continent.

Nevertheless, despite an annual subsidy from the British Government for the maintenance of their forts, the African Company became in course of time involved in grave financial difficulties. In 1749 James Island was found to be "in a most miserable condition, the people in a melancholy situation for want of goods to carry on trade to support their garrison, not having had any supplies for upwards of five years, and not being allowed to trade for themselves the consequences of which were that they were obliged to call in their outfactors on the continent. By being so neglected the chief trade is gone down the River Senegal to the French factory." In the following year it was reported that the garrison at James Fort "was reduced by sickness from twenty-five or thirty men to five or eight and, the officers being all dead, a common soldier had succeeded to the command."

By 1750 the position had become critical and an Act of Parliament was passed divesting the African Company of its charter and vesting its forts and settlements in a new company, which was controlled by a committee of merchants. The Act prohibited the new company from trading in its corporate capacity but allowed it an annual subsidy for the upkeep of the forts. It was hoped thereby to prevent

the monopolistic tendencies of rule by a joint stock company and at the same time to save the Government the expense entailed by the creation of a colonial civil service.

In 1765 the forts and settlements in the Gambia were, by another Act of Parliament, taken from this new company and vested in the Crown. For the next 18 years the Gambia formed part of the Crown Colony of Senegambia. Government headquarters were at St. Louis at the mouth of the River Senegal and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed to take charge of James Fort and the settlements in the Gambia.

In 1779 the French captured James Fort for the fifth and last time. On this occasion they so successfully demolished the fortifications that at the close of the war it was found impossible to rebuild them. Except for a brief period after the Napoleonic Wars, when the island was temporarily occupied by a handful of troops as an outpost, James Island ceased to play any part in the history of the Gambia.

In 1780 the French privateer, *Senegal*, captured four vessels which had been sent, with part of the British garrison at Goree under the command of Major Houghton, to the Bintang Creek to obtain building material. The *Senegal* was in its turn attacked by H.M.S. Zephyr and captured after a very warm action off Barra Point. The prizes had in the meantime been destroyed, but the troops, who had taken refuge on shore and had been befriended by the Jolas of Foni, were rescued by the *Zephyr*.

In 1783, St. Louis and Goree were handed back to France and Senegambia ceased to exist as a British Colony. The Gambia was, therefore, once more entrusted to the care of the African Company which, however, made no attempt to administer it.

In 1785 Lemain (MacCarthy) Island was acquired by the British Government with a view to establishing a convict settlement, but nothing came of the plan, the convicts being eventually diverted to other places.

For the next 30 years British influence in the Gambia was confined to the operations of a number of individual traders. Settlements were established by these traders along the river banks. Perhaps the most important of these was at Pisania (Karantaba). This settlement, which was already in existence in 1779, was occupied by a doctor named Laidley and a family of the name of Aynsley. Subsequently, invaluable assistance was rendered by both Laidley and the Aynsleys to Major Houghton (1790), Mungo Park (1795 and 1805) and Major Grey (1818) in the course of their journeys of exploration into the interior of Africa.

In 1794, on the representations of the African Association, James Willis was appointed Consul General for Senegambia and was ordered to proceed to Fattatenda to promote British trade and influence in the upper regions of the Gambia and the Niger. For various reasons this expedition never sailed and it was left to Mungo Park,

under the auspices of the African Association, to make his way from Karantaba to the upper reaches of the Niger.

In 1807 the African slave trade was abolished by Act of Parliament. At that date the British were in possession of Goree. With the co-operation of the Royal Navy, the garrison of that fort made strenuous efforts to suppress the traffic in the River Gambia which was being carried on by American and Spanish vessels. On more than one occasion the slavers offered a stubborn resistance and the Royal African Corps suffered severe casualties.

At the close of the Napoleonic Wars it was agreed, as part of the terms of the treaty of peace, that Goree should be returned to France. On the recommendation of Sir Charles MacCarthy and in order to suppress the traffic in slaves, the British Government issued instructions that James Island or some other suitable place in the river should be occupied as a military post. Captain Alexander Grant of the African Corps was accordingly despatched with some troops for the purpose. James Island was reoccupied but owing to the ruinous state of the fort it was found to be unsuitable as a military base. On the 23rd April, 1816, Grant entered into a treaty with the King of Kombo for the cession of the island of Banjol to the British Government. The Island was renamed St. Mary's Island, and the settlement, which was established there, was called Bathurst after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

In 1821 the African Company was dissolved by Act of Parliament and the Gambia was placed under the jurisdiction of the Government of Sierra Leone. The Gambia was administered from Sierra Leone until 1843, when it was created a separate Colony. This arrangement continued until 1866, when the Gambia and Sierra Leone were once more united under the same administration.

In the meantime the British Government extended its territorial acquisitions beyond St. Mary's Island by concluding treaties with a number of native chiefs. In 1826 the north bank of the rivermouth was ceded to Great Britain by the King of Barra. In 1823 Major Grant acquired Lemain Island, which was renamed MacCarthy Island and was made into a settlement for liberated African slaves as well as the headquarters of a Wesleyan mission. In 1840 and 1853 considerable areas of the mainland adjoining St. Mary's Island were obtained from the King of Kombo for the settlement of discharged soldiers of the West India Regiments and liberated Africans. Cessions of other tracts of land further upstream were obtained at various dates. In 1857 Albreda, which, as a foreign enclave in the middle of British territory, had proved a constant source of friction between British and French governments, was handed over to Great Britain, who, in exchange, renounced her rights to the gum trade at Portendic.

In 1870 and 1876 negotiations were entered into between the French and British Governments for the exchange of the Gambia for other territory in West Africa, but the proposal aroused such

opposition in Parliament and amongst various mercantile bodies in England and the native inhabitants of the Gambia that the British Government felt unable to press the scheme.

In 1888 the Gambia once more separated from Sierra Leone and has ever since that date been a separate colony. In the following year an agreement was arrived at between the French and British Governments for the delimitation of the boundaries of the Gambia, Senegal and the Casamance. In the meantime, despite a number of petty wars, the Gambia Government had been able to conclude a series of treaties with the principal chiefs living upon the banks of the river. Some of these provided for the cession of small tracts of territory, but the majority of the later treaties conferred British protection. The last and most important of these was concluded in 1901 with Musa Molloh, the paramount chief of Faladu. In 1894 an Ordinance was passed for the better administration of those districts which had not been ceded to, but merely placed under the protection of the British Government. It was also found that in practice it was not feasible to administer as part of the Colony isolated tracts of land lying at a considerable distance from the seat of Government. Consequently, in 1895, and the following years, Ordinances were passed bringing a number of these strips of territory under the protectorate system of administration. Finally, by a Protectorate Ordinance passed in 1902, the whole of the Gambia, with the exception of the Island of St. Mary, was brought under the protectorate scheme.

It is not proposed here to attempt to summarise the more recent history of the Gambia, which may be found in the Annual Reports published during the past 40 years, but during that time the pace of development in the Colony has outstripped that of the Protectorate, and has accentuated the cleavage between the two areas considerably.

The population of the Protectorate, except for the annual ingress and egress of the "strange farmers" from the neighbouring French and Portuguese territories of the Senegal and the Casamance, mainly comprises the indigenous peasant tribes who still cling tenaciously to the native law and custom handed down to them from their ancestors. Bathurst, on the other hand, carries a population of a somewhat cosmopolitan character, consisting of an admixture of persons of very different races and creeds, who have imported with them certain characteristics peculiar to their several places of origin. The social structure of the capital thus has its foundation in a mixture of the endemic and the exotic.

By a constitutional measure of 1947 an unofficial majority was introduced to the Legislative Council, including one elected member to represent Bathurst and Kombo St. Mary. Four years later a further step was taken and the Council which met for its inaugural session in November, 1951, included eight unofficial members of whom two were elected to represent Bathurst and one Kombo St. Mary, while four were appointed to represent the four divisions of

the Protectorate and one commercial interests. The office of Vice-President was also created at that time and filled by a Gambian who normally presided at meetings of the Council. All the elected members were appointed to the Executive Council and two became Members of the Government without Portfolio.

By 1953 it was apparent that the Gambia was ready for further advances and a Consultative Committee of 34 prominent citizens of Bathurst and the Colony, including all available members and former members of the Legislative Council, met under the presidency of the Governor to deliberate on the formulation of a new constitution. The conclusions of the Committee were embodied in proposals submitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and approved with minor amendments in July, 1953, and a constitution based on these proposals came into force towards the end of 1954, when elections were held. The Councils then set up are reported on in detail in the succeeding Chapter on administration and it suffices to say here that the Gambia (Constitution) Order in Council, 1954, provides for the election of 14 unofficial members to the Legislative Council, the nomination of two others and the appointment of a Speaker. The Governor remains President of the Council. There are four *ex officio* members and one nominated official member who, it is provided, shall be a Gambian officer of the public service. The Executive Council includes four *ex officio* members, the nominated official member of Legislative Council and six unofficial members. Thus, there is for the first time an unofficial majority in the Executive Council. It is also provided that the Governor shall, after consultation with the elected and nominated unofficial members of the Legislature, select from among the appointed members of the Executive Council not less than two nor more than three persons to be Ministers charged with responsibility for certain activities of Government. Each Minister is assisted by a small advisory committee including members of the public and the Heads of the Departments concerned.

During 1955 the Government took advantage of an opportunity to purchase a substantial building of modern design in Bathurst for conversion to a Legislative Council Chamber with accommodation for approximately one hundred and fifty visitors. The Chamber was completed and opened at a session of the Council in December, 1955.

Chapter 3 : Administration

THE office of Governor is constituted by the Letters Patent of the 1st September, 1954.

Prior to this date the Executive Council comprised the Colonial Secretary as *ex officio* member and nine appointed members of whom four were not officials. On the 30th August, 1954, however,was made

the Gambia (Constitution) Order in Council, Statutory Instrument No. 1145, of 1954, by which the Executive Council is declared to consist of the Colonial Secretary, the Financial Secretary, the Attorney General and the Senior Commissioner as *ex officio* members, one official member and not less than six appointed members. It is provided that the last shall all be elected or nominated unofficial members of the Legislative Council, appointed by the Governor after consultation with all unofficial members of the Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council is declared by the same Order in Council to consist of the Governor as President, a Speaker appointed by the Governor after consultation, the Colonial Secretary, Financial Secretary, Attorney General and Senior Commissioner as *ex officio* members, one nominated official member who is a Gambian member of the Public Service, two nominated unofficial members of whom one represents commerce, and 14 elected members. Three of the last are elected under the provision of the Colony Elections Ordinance 1954, to represent Bathurst and one to represent Kombo St. Mary. Four are elected to represent the Protectorate by the Divisional Councils from among persons nominated by the District Authorities, and three are elected also to represent the Protectorate by the 35 Head Chiefs of the Gambia. The 11 members thus elected do themselves elect the remaining three from among six persons nominated by the Bathurst Town Council and three by the Kombo St. Mary Rural Authority.

The Order in Council also provides for selection by the Governor, after consultation with all unofficial members of the Legislative Council,of not less than two nor more than three appointed members of the Executive Council to be Ministers bearing responsibility for any matters placed in their charge. After elections held in October, 1954, three Ministers, holding portfolios relating to Education and Welfare, Works and Communications, and Agriculture and Natural Resources, held office. On the 20th December, 1955, the number was reduced to two.

A full description of the Judicial system of the Colony and Protectorate appears in Part II, Chapter 9.

Of the various portions of the Colony, Brefet, Bajana, MacCarthy Island and the Ceded Mile are administered as part of the Protectorate, leaving only the Island of St. Mary, which includes the town of Bathurst and Kombo St. Mary division on the mainland, under their own systems of administration. Within this area the functions of Government are exercised directly by the departments concerned. There is a Commissioner of the Colony charged with general supervisory responsibilities but no executive powers.

Local Government

The Local Government Authority in the Island of St. Mary is the Bathurst Town Council established under the Local Govern-

ment (Bathurst) Ordinance, 1946, which consists of the Commissioner of the Colony as an *ex officio* member, four nominated members and three elected members from each of the five wards. The Ordinance provides for progressive extension of the Council's responsibilities and its main activities consist, at present, of the lighting of streets, the maintenance of markets and drains, care of open spaces and the maintenance of all cleansing services within the town. The Council draws revenue from rates levied on private, commercial and Government premises which are all subject to annual valuation, market dues, sundry grants from Government and duties on palm wine entering the town.

The Kombo Rural Authority was set up early in 1947 under the Kombo St. Mary Division Ordinance of 1946. It consists of a Chairman, at present the Commissioner of the Colony, six nominated unofficial members and, since 1953, 20 elected unofficial members. The Authority concerns itself with the maintenance of village streets and markets and some forms of agricultural development. Revenue is derived from rates, fees from trade licences and the hire of market stalls.

The Protectorate is administered in the four Divisions—Western, Central, MacCarthy Island and Upper River—whose boundaries were laid down in 1947 (Proclamation No. 2, of 1947). Each of them comprises a section of each bank of the river and is in the charge of a Commissioner. Their headquarters are at Brikama, Mansa-Konko, Georgetown and Basse respectively.

Each Division consists of a number of districts under a head chief whose appointment is approved by the Governor by proclamation. There are 35 such districts of various sizes, ranging from 305 to eight square miles and with populations of between 29,000 and 900 persons. These districts may be divided into sub-districts under sub-chiefs but none is in existence at present.

Each district possesses a Native Authority and a Native Tribunal. The Native Authority is declared by the Governor for any specified area and may be any chief or native council or group of natives. The district head was previously the Native Authority, but a change was made in all the districts during 1945 when the district head became the president and the village heads, with their advisers-in-council, were appointed members of the Authority. The Native Authority has powers to make orders and rules to be obeyed by natives within the districts, and is expected to maintain order and good government in the area over which its authority extends. The Native Authority Ordinance, 1933, confers these powers.

Mention has been made in Part II Chapter 9, of the native tribunal system, which was remodelled in January, 1946, by the creation of two grades, the group and the district tribunals. There are now 35 district tribunals, with the district head as president and an average of six elders as members. Two group tribunals were constituted in 1946, serving the three Kombo and five Foni districts of the Western

Division, and a third was started in 1947, serving three districts in the MacCarthy Island Division.

Under the Protectorate Treasuries Ordinance, No. 13, of 1945, a number of group or district treasuries have been established, and are making steady progress. Although each district frames its own estimates of revenues and expenditure the majority prefer to group for the purpose of a treasury, which is managed by a finance committee.

The sources of revenue are monies derived from the imposition of district rates, rents, tribunal fees, timber and miscellaneous fees, and interests on investments.

The annual Chief's Conference was held at Basse in the Upper River Division in 1956 and at Sankwia in Central Division in 1957, the last being opened by H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. It is interesting to note that matters of a progressively wider and more abstract nature are referred to the Conference with the most encouraging results, and legislation affecting the Protectorate in particular is always, unless of great urgency, referred with full explanation to the Chiefs for their comment. The number of official and unofficial visitors continues to increase and there is an air of festival about the Conference week with its wrestling, music, dancing, horse racing and other local and imported sports and pastimes which has made invitations to attend much sought after.

Fresh provision was made for the tenure and management of lands in the Protectorate Lands Ordinance, 1945, by which they are declared to be vested in the authorities of the districts in which they are situated and to be held and administered for the use and common benefit of the communities concerned.

MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, 1957

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(at end of 1957)

President	His Excellency the Governor.
Ex Officio Members	The Honourable the Colonial Secretary. The Honourable the Financial Secretary. The Honourable the Attorney General. The Honourable Senior Commissioner.
The Official Member	The Honourable Dr. S. H. O. Jones, C.B.E., Director of Medical Services.
Appointed Members	
The Honourable and Reverend J. C. Faye, M.B.E.	Elected Member of Legislative Council and Minister of Works and Communications.
The Honourable I. M. Garba-Jahumpa, J.P.	Elected Member of Legislative Council and Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources.
The Honourable H. A. Madi, J.P.	Elected Member of Legislative Council.

The Honourable Seyfu Landing Sali Sonko	Elected Member of Legislative Council.
The Honourable J. L. Mahoney	Elected Member of Legislative Council.
The Honourable Seyfu Karamo Kabbah Sanneh, M.B.E.	Elected Member of Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

(*at end of 1957*)

President	His Excellency the Governor
The Speaker	The Honourable J. A. Mahoney, O.B.E., J.P.
Ex Officio Members	The Honourable the Colonial Secretary. The Honourable the Financial Secretary. The Honourable the Attorney General. The Honourable the Senior Commissioner.
Nominated Official Member	The Honourable Dr. S. H. O. Jones, C.B.E., Director of Medical Services.
Nominated Unofficial Members	The Honourable E. F. Small, O.B.E. The Honourable T. D. Mallinson.
Unofficial Members	
The Honourable P. S. N'Jie	First Elected Member for Bathurst.
The Honourable and Reverend J. C. Faye, M.B.E.	Second Elected Member for Bathurst.
The Honourable I. M. Garba-Jahumpa, J.P.	Third Elected Member for Bathurst.
The Honourable H. A. Madi, J.P.	Elected Member for Kombo St. Mary.
The Honourable Seyfu Landing Sali Sonko	Elected Member for Protectorate.
The Honourable J. L. Mahoney	Elected Member.
The Honourable Seyfu Karamo Kabbah Sanneh, M.B.E.	Elected Member for the Protectorate.
The Honourable Sekuba Foday Jarjusey	Elected Member for the Protectorate.
The Honourable Seyfu Omar M'Baki	Elected Member for the Protectorate.
The Honourable Alhaji Muhamadou Krubally	Elected Member for the Protectorate.
The Honourable Ebrahima N. Sarge	Elected Member for the Protectorate.
The Honourable Alhaji Alieu Ousman Jeng	Elected Member.
The Honourable Seyfu Koba Leigh	Elected Member for the Protectorate.
The Honourable Howsoon Ousman Semega-Janneh	Elected Member.

Chapter 4 : Weights and Measures

IMPERIAL weights and measures are in general use.

Chapter 5 : Reading List

PUBLICATIONS, other than those of purely official character which are listed on page 71, are limited in number. Most of the older publications are now out of print. Those listed below include books dealing exclusively with the Gambia, and not books which relate to West Africa in general.

The Gambia Colony and Protectorate, an Official Handbook, by F. Bisset Archer, London, St. Bride's Press Ltd., 1906. A very general survey of the Colony up to the date of publication; much of the information given, particularly the historical portion, is of value even at the present time.

The Gambia, by Lady Southern. Allen and Unwin, 1952.

A History of the Gambia, by J. M. Gray, Cambridge University Press, 1940.

The Carthaginian Voyage in West Africa, by Sir Richmond Palmer. Bathurst Stationery Store, 1931. This booklet includes a translated extract from Sultan Mohammed Bello's account of the origin of the Fulbe Tribe.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

GAMBIA GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Obtainable from the Information Office, Bathurst, or the Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations, 4, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

Trade Reports for 1955 and 1956: each . . .

Gambia Gazette

A Report of a Survey of the Rice Areas in the Central Division of the Gambia, by C. O. Van der Plas . .

Gambia Rice Farm Annual Report

Report of the Commission on the Civil Service of the Gambia, 1956, by L. H. Gorsuch, Esq., C.B.E. .

UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office.

Report of the Commission on Higher Education in West Africa, Cmd. 6655. 1945.

Report of the Mission appointed to enquire into the production and transport of Vegetable Oils and Oil Seeds produced in the West African Colonies, Col. No. 211. 1947.

Report of the West African Oilseeds Mission, Col. No. 224. 1948.

An Economic Survey of the Colonial Territories, 1951. Volume III: The West African Territories,

Agreement . . . respecting the Delimitation of certain portions of Boundary between Senegal and the Gambia. Treaty Series No. 12, 1929 Cmd. 3340.

APPENDIX I

REVENUE, 1950—1957

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ Revised Estimate
1. Revenue from local sources : . . .								
Customs (net) . .	429,839	533,033	653,211	517,743	831,537	894,787	754,583	1,117,928
Port Dues . .	31,256	34,197	33,817	29,550	30,526	37,286	32,316	39,800
Taxes . . .	137,766	179,301	599,175	229,289	134,801	146,543	196,296	220,000
Licences, etc. . .	9,671	14,364	16,616	14,513	15,043	17,252	17,457	21,205
Fees, etc. . . .	25,028	22,745	19,730	12,610	13,434	15,730	19,574	21,250
Commercial operations	31,803	38,562	41,743	48,320	74,781	73,818	77,158	114,065
Posts, etc. . . .	11,332	12,663	13,441	35,859	37,821	25,293	24,732	25,130
Rents . . .	8,915	8,284	8,687	6,925	9,344	10,371	10,544	10,322
Miscellaneous . .	19,884	14,066	24,343	17,113	24,229	44,140	28,040	16,774
Total Local Sources	705,494	857,215	1,110,763	911,922	1,171,516	1,265,220	1,160,700	1,586,474
2. Interest . . .	20,940	15,642	15,823	17,679	23,194	26,984	17,373	34,313
Total comparable revenue	726,398	872,857	1,126,586	929,601	1,194,710	1,292,204	1,178,073	1,620,787
3. Currency Board profits .	18,840	13,768	5,930	15,604	18,950	13,580	13,160	13,000
4. C.D. & W. Grants .	187,703	167,248	58,119	137,256	92,480	124,537	82,701	169,333
5. Other Grants . .	—	25,797	68,115	78,021	74,464	67,633	83,163	108,780
Total Net Revenue	932,941	1,079,670	1,258,750	1,160,482	1,380,604	1,497,954	1,357,097	1,911,900
Revenue collected & refunded	7,998	8,515	5,938	4,440	5,968	1,999	7,102	5,000
Transfers from Reserves .	17,621	6,664	120,505	—	—	—	—	—
Advances and repayments	16,789	21,114	23,051	21,826	18,947	21,642	22,332	131,500
Sale of unallocated stores and Manufacturing Accounts . . .	23,867	28,862	23,251	14,320	14,837	11,435	18,475	26,600
Gross Revenue	999,216	1,144,825	1,431,495	1,201,068	1,420,356	1,533,030	1,405,006	2,075,000

APPENDIX II

EXPENDITURE, 1950—1957

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ Revised estimates
Recurrent Expenditure								
Personal Emoluments								
Ordinary	280,884	323,198	348,037	371,087	430,365	464,494	541,799	701,120
Military and Defence	17,010	15,004	15,104	20,481	17,113	16,606	17,248	19,430
Departmental and Services	311,471	370,506	510,545	493,805	523,085	537,837	635,151	619,966
Pensions and Gratuities	37,246	41,555	49,379	56,876	59,389	72,444	71,428	77,520
Steamer Depreciation Fund	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Public Debt	2,318	2,318	2,318	2,318	9,558	16,852	16,798	16,800
Non-Recurrent Expenditure								
Land Purchase and Public Works	176,601	228,490	227,238	61,363	52,855	80,902	95,558	130,034
Expenditure against Special Grants	78,036	153,620	137,644	69,331	28,445	83,882	79,948	202,035
Real Expenditure	909,566	1,140,691	1,296,265	1,081,261	1,126,810	1,281,017	1,465,930	1,774,905
Revenue refunds	7,998	8,515	5,938	4,440	5,968	1,999	7,102	5,000
Advances	24,022	25,384	44,199	13,542	46,873	21,602	132,738	54,600
Transfers to reserve	8,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unallocated stores and Manufacturing Account	112,726	(3,562)	77,811	(13,550)	(13,342)	(24,772)	41,130	22,400
Gross Expenditure	1,062,312	1,171,028	1,424,213	1,085,693	1,166,309	1,279,846	1,646,900	1,856,905

APPENDIX III

ACTUAL EXPENDITURE, 1951 — 1957

Head of Estimates	*Head of Expenditure*	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£ (Revised Estimates)
1.	The Governor	6,825	8,144	9,270	9,305	10,381	10,799	11,909
2.	Accountant General's Department	7,094	9,166	9,600	11,589	11,484	12,683	15,585
3.	Agriculture and Development	56,834	106,033	87,408	50,173	51,256	82,521	106,500
4.	Audit Department	4,412	4,253	4,854	5,271	5,029	6,267	7,585
5.	Colony Administration	4,603	5,380	7,646	8,310	6,983	6,310	6,405
6.	Crown Law and Lands	4,117	4,437	3,908	4,620	5,290	6,349	8,682
7.	Customs	17,332	15,246	14,330	17,559	14,713	20,757	21,130
8.	Education Department	53,994	58,947	59,651	73,265	85,165	84,941	106,840
9.	Electricity Department	—	—	—	—	54,613	50,397	54,894
10.	Forestry	—	—	4,513	3,979	4,272	4,853	3,752
—	Income Tax	1,482	1,656	—	—	—	—	—
11.	Judicial Department	7,043	5,452	7,611	8,580	9,446	11,267	11,979
12.	Legislature	1,765	2,265	2,608	3,725	9,158	10,545	11,107
13.	Marine	—	—	97,917	79,389	99,248	145,738	159,040
14.	Medical and Health Services	80,502	89,860	103,051	108,269	117,509	131,605	153,052
—	Meteorological Services	4,476	4,417	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Miscellaneous Services	72,168	142,730	71,014	143,685	100,671	218,363	144,661
16.	Pensions and Gratuities	41,555	49,379	56,876	59,389	72,444	71,428	77,520
17.	Police	34,308	40,197	45,677	48,170	55,081	64,140	89,371
18.	Post Office	10,982	10,862	13,791	10,320	36.518	40,004	45.892
19.	Printing Office	16,358	19,169	15,222	16,254	16,237	19,361	23,563
20.	Prisons	8,935	12,010	12,706	12,832	12,586	15,623	14.022

Continued Overleaf

ACTUAL EXPENDITURE 1951 — 1957—*cont*

Head of Estimates *Head of Expenditure*	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ (Revised Estimates)
21. Protectorate Administration .	35,468	35,450	34,112	24,211	24,586	32,980	58,117
22. Public Debt Charges . .	2,318	2,318	2,318	9,558	16,852	16,798	16,800
23. Public Works Department .	106,124	199,803	54,046	92,627	62,922	143,432	170,447
24. Public Works Annually Recurrent .	151,775	173,740	126,977	133,550	92,486	96,522	109,379
25. Public Works Extraordinary .	382,110	364,882	65,390	52,855	80,902	95,558	130,034
26. P.W. Department (Development Works) . . .	—	—	65,304	28,445	83,882	79,948	110,811
27. Reserve Appropriation . .	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
28. Royal West Africa Frontier Force .	15,004	15,105	20,481	17,113	16,606	17,248	19,430
29. Secretariat	20,625	19,938	27,075	60,370	61,563	70,179	74,817
30. Survey Department . .	6,544	6,615	6,739	7,440	7,665	9,541	14,777
31. Veterinary Services . . .	10,275	10,759	11,112	13,192	13,126	14,198	13,576
32. Wallikunda Rice Farm . .	—	—	38,486	48,264	25,169	20,781	32,194
33. Yundum College . . .	—	—	—	—	—	15,764	25,034
TOTAL	1,171,028	1,424,213	1,085,693	1,168,309	1,279,846	1,646,900	1,856,905

APPENDIX IV

MAJOR COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES IN PROGRESS OR INITIATED IN 1956—1957

Scheme No.	*Scheme*	*Total Cost*	*C.D. and W. Grant*	*Amount Spent up to 31st Dec., 1957*	*Date Begun*
D.883 D.883A D.883B D.883C	Victoria Hospital	£ 200,000	£ 200,000	£ 195,851	1952
D.1907 D.1907A	Bathurst Water Supply	90,500	88,250	15,587	1954
D.2022	Bathurst Streets	90,000	90,000	32,265	1955
D.2136	Bathurst Schools	82,000	82,000	60,623	1954
D.2387 R.762	Gambia Rice Farm	181,610	161,016	13,893	1953
D.3296	Oyster Creek Bridge	138,200	103,650	—	1957
R.686	Agricultural (Soil) Research Scheme . . .	93,326	43,100	12,791	1956

APPENDIX V

STATISTICS OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES HEARD 1956 and 1957

Court	No. of Civil Cases		No. of Criminal Offences Charged		No. of Accused Persons		No. of Convictions		No. of Acquittals	
	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957
Supreme Court . . .	102	94	43	14	31	10	31	7	25	5
Subordinate Court: Colony .	1,339	1,619	1,025	993	1,155	1,064	993	800	162	79
High Court of the Protectorate	25	22	9	8	8	8	6	8	2	—
Protectorate Courts . .	218	156	444	415	438	429	408	382	36	26
District Tribunals . .	631	676	331	327	493	507	322	318	8	9

JUVENILES—All Courts

Charged		Acquitted		Convicted	
1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957
28	36	5	4	23	32

Summary Table of Punishments awarded by Subordinate Courts and District Tribunals

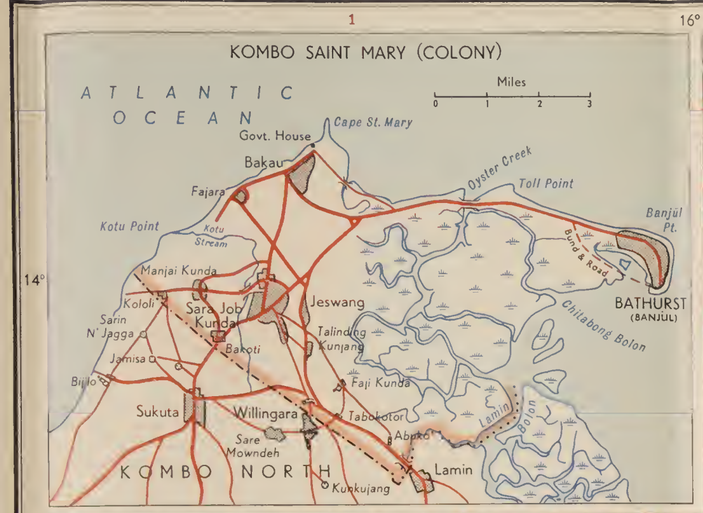
Imprisonment		Fines		Otherwise Disposed of	
1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957
249	180	1,106	1,138	575	317

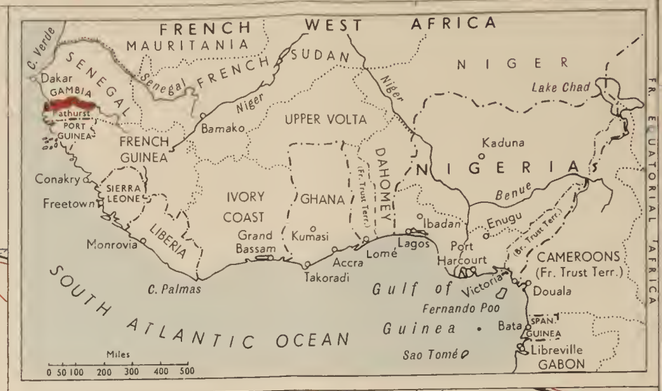
N.B. These figures do not take account of revision of sentences on appeal.

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GAMBIA





Scale of Miles
10 5 0 10 20 30

REFERENCE

- Boundaries, Inter-Territorial
- " Divisional
- District
- Railways
- Principal Roads
- Other Roads
- Ferry
- Airfield
- Government Rice Farms

Administrative Headquarters are underlined in Red

Longitude West of Greenwich

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